Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Afghanistan

Sebghatollah Mojaddedi arrived in Kabul today amid a volley of celebratory gunfire and cries of "Allah-o-Akbar,"according to Kabul Radio and AFP. Mojaddedi assumed the interim presidency of the new Islamic State of Afghanistan at a ceremony held at the Foreign Ministry. Although he declared a general amnesty, he said the people of Afghanistan would decide what to do with Najibollah, according to AFP. Meanwhile, Golboddin Hekmatyar and his Hezb-e Eslami Party have reportedly agreed, with certain conditions, to the complete cease-fire announced by Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif and the transitional government council, according to AFP.

Syria

The decision to grant Syrian Jews the freedom to leave the country was not made "within the context" of the peace talks, but if it helps the negotiations, "then we are satisfied," according to the official spokeswoman of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, cited by AFP. Meanwhile, Damascus TV noted the State Department's announcement that there is "no truth whatsoever" in the TIME magazine report accusing the Syrian Government of involvement in the Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie.

Iran

At a news conference prior to departing Tehran, UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali described his talks with Foreign Minister Velayati and other Iranian leaders as "very positive," praising Tehran's "close cooperation" with UN officials in efforts to resolve the Afghanistan issue, Tehran Radio reported.

Iraq

Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn criticized the "imposition" of new Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders, claiming that "this is not the best means of establishing peace and stability in the region," Radio Monte Carlo observed. Saddam Husayn celebrated his birthday on 28 April by receiving Revolution Command Council and Ba'th Party members, INA noted, and Baghdad radio noted his receipt of congratulatory messages from senior state and party officials.

Yemen

The justice minister was flown to Germany for an "urgent eye operation" after an attempt on his life in the capital on 26 April, according to officials cited by AFP.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Further on Arab Preparatory Meeting

Syrian Delegate Comments

JN2704123892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In preparation for the fifth round of peace talks, the heads of the Arab—Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese—delegations held a coordination meeting last night and agreed to hold another coordination meeting halfway through the current round to assess the talks.

Following the meeting, the heads of Arab delegations expressed satisfaction with the coordination among their delegations. In our morning cast today, we reviewed statements in this regard by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation.

Our correspondent in Washington asked Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the talks, on the recent Israeli intransigent statements concerning the peace process. Mr. al-'Allaf answered by saying:

[Begin al-'Allaf recording] These are part of the escalation process for electioneering purposes, and are against the spirit of the peace process. The statements do not fit in with the Israeli delegation's arrival to attend a peace conference when that delegation states that it is determined to violate the basis on which the peace process is based. We are used to this Israeli intransigent and inflexible position. If we were relying on the Israeli will and intentions, we would not have come here. As my colleagues have said, the world community and the conference cosponsors are convinced that the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot continue the way it is now because this will not destroy and harm the region only, but will also influence world peace. At a time when efforts are being made all over the world to boost the peoples' right to self-determination, to spread democracy, and to prevent aggression, the world community cannot allow the Arab-Israeli conflict to continue in a manner that threatens peace. Therefore, we still rely on the world community's resolve and the seriousness of the conference cosponsors, particularly the United States. That is why you see us now here in Washington for the fifth time, and we will go to anywhere we are invited to continue the efforts concerning the peace process. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Lebanon's Shammas Comments

NC2704130692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, made the following comments following the Arab delegations' coordination meeting yesterday. We will, he said, continue with the peace process regardless of the difficulties and threats. He emphasized that the concept of justice in the Middle East must be based on two points:

1. The Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

2. Land for peace.

He discussed the choice of Rome as a new venue for the bilateral negotiations, saying that the United States has pledged that no matter how far the venue is from Washington, the highest levels of the U.S. Government will continue to seriously and completely follow the talks as an expression of the U.S. continued interest in the successful conclusion of the talks.

Talks Open 27 Apr; Delegates Issue Statements

'Not Much Progress' Expected

JN2704160792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Washington—The fifth round of Middle East peace talks began today in Washington.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the talks, said he does not expect the outcome of this round to be any different from that of the previous four rounds which were held in the past six months in Madrid and Washington.

Asked if there will be anything different between this round and previous ones, al-'Allaf said that this time the Israeli delegation must express a readiness to enter into a serious and practical discussion of implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which form the basis for the peace process.

He added: We are still determined to push the peace process forward and are sincerely interested in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of international legitimacy.

Following a meeting of the chief Arab delegates yesterday at the Palestinian delegation's residence, the Arab delegations said they doubt that any progress will be made in this round, especially since the Israeli side views this round of talks from only one angle only: To employ it in the game of the Israeli elections, due to be held in June, in which the candidates compete to express their extremism and inflexibility in rejecting Arab rights and refusing to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

A Palestinian delegate to the peace talks has asserted that the delegation will from the very beginning strongly raise the issue of settlements and will demand a halt to the intense Israeli settlement activities in occupied Jerusalem.

In a statement yesterday, the Palestinian delegate said the Palestinians do not expect much progress in these talks.

Jordanian, Palestinian Agenda

JN2704194692 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 gmt 27 Apr 92

[Excerpts] The fifth round of bilateral Middle East peace talks were kicked off in Washington this evening. From there our media team sent this dispatch:

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Talks between the Jordanian and Israeli delegations are set to begin at the U.S. State Department at 1600 Washington time, 2300 Jordan time. Earlier in the day, Palestinian chief delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Israel's Elyaqim Rubenstein led the first session of Palestinian-Israeli talks. Also, the Syrian and Lebanese delegates held separate talks with Israeli negotiating teams. [passage omitted] Arab delegates emphasized that this round of discussions will pick up where the earlier round left off. The Jordanian- Israeli talks will pursue a joint agenda, after earlier attempts to that end proved fruitless.

[Jordanian delegate Fayiz al-Tarawinah] We will pick up where we left off in the fourth round in Washington, when we presented an agenda addressing issues of concern to Jordan, and the other side submitted its own agenda. Previously, we attempted but failed to work out a joint agenda. We will now try again. This may prove difficult, but proposals will be made. In the fourth round, we laid out Jordan's position on bilateral issues, including water, refugees, and the occupied Jordanian territory. Naturally, all these issues are being presented in the context of Jordan's image of the peace process, namely the comprehensiveness of peace.

[Correspondent] The talks between the Palestinians and Israelis will focus on their respective plans for the interim stage and Jewish settlements. These plans were submitted at the previous round in Washington.

[Palestinian delegate Sa'ib 'Urayqat] Since the peace process got underway, the Palestinian side has been saying loud and clear that it will be pointless to address substance before settlement activity is brought to a halt. On that score, we have presented many papers to the Israeli side and the U.S. sponsor. Our position has been that the peace process can hardly advance as long as settlement activity continues. We think that in this round, the Israeli delegation will propose municipal elections. As you know, we have advanced an integrated paper for the interim stage foreseeing general political elections in the occupied territories so that authority derives from the Palestinian people. The Israelis will now propose municipal elections to skirt the Palestinian plan, and rather than devolve real power to the Palestinians, they will talk about assigning municipal powers. This is something dangerous. If the Israelis propose this, we have papers of our own. We will also bring up Israeli human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories. Furthermore, we will present integrated papers demanding a halt to settlement activity, pointing out its eroding influence on the peace process. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Jordanian, Palestinian Comment

JN2804063892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Muhammad al-Sharif dispatch from Washington]

[Text] On the first day of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, which are being held in Washington, four working sessions were held yesterday. The last session of negotiations was between the Jordanian and Israeli delegations, and ended at 1900 Washington time, 0200 Jordan time.

Following the session, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, spoke to reporters:

[Begin al-Majali recording] We met this afternoon as part of the Jordanian-Israeli track to discuss the agenda, since last time we proposed an agenda and the Israeli delegation also proposed an agenda. We tried to draw up a joint agenda. The Israeli delegation this afternoon proposed a joint agenda. We inquired about many points contained in it. We will study the proposed agenda in depth, and will give an answer tomorrow afternoon.

Afterwards, we spoke about an important issue for us, namely, the water issue and our right to the waters of the Jordan River and al- Yarmuk River. We also included other issues related to the environment and energy. There was a response by the other party to what we have presented. We will pursue this issue tomorrow afternoon. The negotiations were frank, unambiguous, and serious. [end recording]

The Palestinian delegation earlier met with the Israeli delegation for around three hours. Following the meeting, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation said:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] Today, we reiterated our serious commitment to the peace process. We also commented in detail on the Israeli proposal that has been presented to us. We made lengthy remarks on this issue, and asserted anew our basic stance that the continued seizure of territories and establishment of settlements greatly conflict with the potential for peace. This was what we did today. [end recording]

At the same time, Edward Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state for near eastern affairs, met with a Palestinian delegation. During the meeting, several issues were discussed, most important of which were settlement activity, human rights in the occupied territories, as well as the Israeli proposal to hold municipal elections in the occupied territories. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, said the Palestinian delegation presented its view on this proposal.

At the same time the Palestinian-Israeli meeting was held, the Syrian and Lebanese delegations held two working sessions with two Israeli delegations.

Discussions centered on a series of objective issues related to Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights and the repeated Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon.

The meetings of Arab delegations with Israeli delegations will resume today to discuss various issues.

'Ashrawi on Municipal Elections Proposal

JN2804071092 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Israeli negotiators formally proposed holding municipal elections for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. In a briefing following the first session, Israeli Deputy Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters he would not go into details on the proposal, which was offered in the three-and-a-half-hour meeting between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said her delegation wanted to study the Israeli document, but in principle believed the elections should not be merely for municipalities but to choose a Palestinian national legislature to take over authority from Israeli occupation forces.

The Syrian and Lebanese delegations also held separate meetings with the Israelis, but no details were reported.

Israel's Netanyahu Comments

TA2804053992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Telephone interview with Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Washington by Me'ir Einstein in the Jerusalem studio—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Deputy Minister Netanyahu, you are in charge of the information aspect of the peace talks. Was the proposal to hold municipal elections in Judaea and Samaria, raised yesterday by Israel at the opening of the talks, part of that effort?

[Netanyahu] We did raise a proposal for the initial stage of elections. I naturally do not want to go into the details of the proposal, because obviously it must be delved into and negotiated between the delegations and not in the media. Such a proposal was presented, however, and it was not rejected. We are discussing it.

[Einstein] Municipal elections were held in the distant past. What is the difference between them and the elections proposed by Israel now?

[Netanyahu] The aim is to begin a process, which we in fact started in Madrid. I do not know if the listeners are following developments in Judaea and Samaria, but there have been almost 30 elections to various organizations there with the aim of creating a different process, a different atmosphere, while at the same time increasing security efforts, with positive results in the field. We are trying to advance a political process of democratic representation, and not one decided by the sword or, in this case, the ax. It is a slow process, but we have presented a proposal here in Washington.

[Einstein] Municipal elections of that type could mean that unmistakable representatives of the PLO might be elected in democratic and free elections. Is Israel ready to accept the outcome of such elections?

[Netanyahu] The PLO is an outlawed organization, and its members cannot participate in these elections. Their place is in jail. It is obvious, however, that the PLO will try various ways to force itself on the inhabitants and on the people who will be elected—by frightening them, by the reign of terror it tries to introduce into the area, and by other means. We must fight it through security and political means. We will not accept PLO members. We are trying to separate the local population from the PLO, and that is an ongoing effort.

[Einstein] Let me try to understand you. Candidates who declare that they are PLO representatives will not be permitted to compete in such elections?

[Netanyahu] I will not get into the precise wording of how it will be done, but one thing must be clear: The elections are not being devised for an organization called the PLO. They are designed to allow the residents of the territories—Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—to elect their representatives. Of course, I do not expect all of them to accept our position, and that is not the point, but one thing will happen: For the first time, there will be elections among Palestinian Arabs. Again, I will not say within what framework this will take place or what its geographic or demographic borders will be. It is clear, however, that what we are talking about are elections of Palestinians—not through means imposed by the PLO, but through proper elections. I also know that the PLO is very concerned about the election idea. It constantly boasts about being the so-called sole legitimate representative, and it is obvious to anybody who knows what is going on in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip that the PLO will be stripped of that title immediately. I am therefore not aware of any enthusiasm on the part of PLO circles for the election idea. On the contrary, it is concerned about the possible outcome of such a process.

Netanyahu Sees 'Real Progress'

TA2804050492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi will meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker today as peace talks resume in Washington. Israeli negotiators conducted their first set of talks overnight with the Jordanian delegation. Talks with all the delegations have been described as upbeat. Connie Lon reports:

[Begin recording] [Lon] There are signs of genuine progress in the Middle East peace talks. The parties claim they are no longer posturing and are actually negotiating. The Israelis proposed plans for municipal

elections in the territories, and the Syrians have improved the general atmosphere with their announcement they will relax the travel and leaving restrictions on the 4,500 Jews who live in Syria.

After the first round of talks Monday, Israeli official Binyamin Netanyahu said he thinks progress is possible.

[Netanyahu] We have real negotiations taking place. I won't say that progress is uniform at all committees, but in fact, in this particular arena—the Palestinian-Jordanian discussion that we are having with the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation—there was real progress, there is real movement, and Israel is making concrete proposals which we hope the other side will negotiate about in earnest.

[Lon] Palestinian negotiators say the Israeli proposals for elections in the municipalities are a step forward, but spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi says they should take place after elections are held for a 180-member Palestinian assembly.

['Ashrawi] We are willing to conduct municipal elections after we have elections for the Palestinian authority that will conduct the transfer of authority from the Israeli occupation to the Palestinians.

[Lon] The Palestinians fear the Israeli proposal will slow the move for self-rule in the territories and allow Israel to build more settlements, but despite the differences, the parties are negotiating and, by all appearances, that mode will continue for the rest of the week.

In the meantime, Foreign Minister David Levi will lend his presence to the general focus on the Middle East in Washington. He will visit with Secretary of State Baker to discuss the unfolding developments. Connie Lon at the State Department. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 28 April reports that "no real progress was made in the talks with the Syrians and the Lebanese. The talks with the Jordanian delegation were practical. A Jordanian expert presented Amman's position on the issue of dividing up the waters after peace is established."]

Ben-Aharon on Talks With Syrians

TA2804064292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office and head of the Israeli team to talks with Syria, in Washington by Gad Becker and Ya'el Dan in the studio—live]

[Text] [Becker] Were the latest reports from the United States on Syria's changed attitude toward the Jews confirmed in any way in your meeting with the Syrians?

[Ben-Aharon] Not in the meeting itself because, for reasons known only to them, the Syrian delegation did not want to refer to the issue. We, of course, raise the condition of Syrian Jewry in each meeting. We have done so all along, and the Syrians have not liked it very much. As is also known, the Israeli Government worked on the matter for years. President al-Asad has now decided to do something. We still do not know the details, but the State Department called and told us that it has received official confirmation that Syrian Jews will be permitted to leave under the same conditions applicable to non-Jewish Syrian citizens. In other words, a family requesting to leave Syria will no longer have to leave relatives behind as hostages to assure its return. In addition, we were told, the restrictions imposed on property owned by Syrian Jews will be lifted. In other words, Jews will be able to sell their property and buy what they want just like other Syrian citizens.

[Dan] Can that find any expression in the talks? Can it have any impact on the spirit of the talks?

[Ben-Aharon] I certainly think so, and we said as much and perhaps should say it again: We note the fact with satisfaction, although the permission came very late, after much suffering had been imposed on Syrian Jews over many years. Such a move must be welcomed, however, if it appears that the Jews will finally be permitted to leave without restriction. We have noted that we are also contributing to that kind of atmosphere in our assistance to the Syrian vessel in distress and when we permitted a Syrian helicopter to fly over Israeli-controlled territory on Mount Hermon during the heavy snows, for example.

[Dan] After the Syrian move—which we could call a gesture, since it is not directly linked to the peace talks—can we not expect some sort of Israeli gesture?

[Ben-Aharon] We should not turn Syrian Jewry into a bargaining chip between us and them, but it can definitely contribute to the atmosphere, and, as I said, we will welcome any such steps. There are more things that must be done to make real progress not only in the atmosphere but also in the content of the talks.

[Becker] By the way, despite the State Department announcement, you have made sure to use the conditional tense in this conversation. You said: If the Syrian Jews are permitted to leave. You still have doubts?

[Ben-Aharon] I would like to tell you that as someone who has been following the issue for many years, similar promises were made in the past by President al-Asad himself and were not fulfilled. I remind you that in 1979, after the meeting between al-Asad and President Carter, there was a promise that Jewish women who could not find a marriage partner would be permitted to leave Syria. We waited, and after the first group of 12 women were freed, no more were allowed out.

[Dan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, to conclude, can you tell us in brief whether any progress has been made at the end of this first day of talks?

[Ben-Aharon] I believe it has, because we are meeting for the fourth time in Washington and the fifth altogether, and we cannot keep skirting around limited issues. I believe there is already more understanding on both sides about the position of the other side, and we are getting closer to those issues which make up the real meat of the problems dividing Syria and us. I would like to hope that during the coming three days, we will be able to report real progress.

Syria's al-'Allaf on First Session

JN2704205592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Washington—Following the first session of the fifth round of talks which opened today, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, said that today's meeting did not produce anything new because of Israel's intransigence. In a statement to journalists, he pointed out that the Israeli side has once again begun to raise topics that are supposed to be discussed at the end of the peace process and after this process turns out to be successful, because these topics are considered fruits of peace. He added that during the meeting the Syrian delegation replied to the Israeli side's attempt to cast doubts about the binding nature of Resolution 242 on settlements in the Middle East.

Al-'Allaf added that the Israel's conception of the resolution as a group of unbinding outlines conflicts with the conception of the United Nations and the two sponsors of the peace conference which extended invitations to these talks in light of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He also said that during the meeting the Israeli side announced it would leave Washington on Thursday.

It has been learned that the Arab delegations to the peace talks announced after their meeting in Washington yesterday that they were ready to continue this round until 5 May.

Lebanese, Israeli Delegates on Talks

NC2704210392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Dispatch from correspondent Nuhad al-Hayik in Washington]

[Text] [Al-Hayik] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, has reiterated Lebanon's adherence to its view of peace—the mere implementation of Resolution 425. At the end of the session of talks between the Lebanese and Israeli negotiating delegations this morning, which lasted about three and a half hours, Shammas stressed the need to continue the peace process and not to spare any effort to make it successful.

Shammas was asked about the absence of an Israeli attack on southern Lebanon on the eve of this round, contrary to what happened before previous rounds, and whether he sees any reflection of this in the Israeli position in the current negotiations. He replied:

[Begin Shammas recording] In fact I have no information at the moment on the true situation in the south. However, self-restraint and avoiding acts of violence might help create the atmosphere we need to (?persuade) the Israeli side that implementing Resolution 425 will set us on the genuine road to peace. If what you say is correct, it is important that this situation should continue and resorting to acts of violence should be avoided. One of our ultimate aims is to end the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and achieve the noble goals of the conference. [end recording]

[Al-Hayik] As for the Israeli delegation, one of its leaders, Uri Lubrani, announced that a stage has begun where points of agreement reached during the 20 meetings that have been held so far have been identified. He said: We look forward with optimism to the next meeting to continue discussing these points. Lubrani reiterated that Israel feels that Resolution 425 does not stand on its own and Israel wishes to discuss it within the context of a peace treaty. Lubrani said: The Israeli deployment in Lebanon in its current form is not because we like it that way but because Israel is duty bound to protect its northern border. He said that any activity breaching this region's security represents an obstacle to the continuation of the peace process and the talks with the Lebanese delegation.

Replying to a question on Israeli threats to strike at southern Lebanon, especially Defense Minister Moshe Arens' statements, the other leader of the Israeli delegation, Yosef Hadas, said that Arens had made some statements in response to certain terrorist activities staged from Lebanon targeting Israel and that he did not threaten Lebanon. Hadas repeated the talk about Israel's right to defend its citizens' security.

Hadas said that the Syrian decision allowing travel and ownership for Syrian Jews is a very positive measure that will reflect on the talks between Israel and Syria. He added that this is a matter concerning only Syria and not Lebanon, which is a democratic country. Hadas refused to say that Israel will give something in return. This decision, he said, concerns Syrian citizens' rights and we do not have to pay anything in return. He said that the Israeli delegation will remain only until Thursday. He expects the next round of talks to be held in Rome within a month to five weeks.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Official on Libya's 'Positive Stances'

LD2704162292 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1140 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Telephone interview with Arab League Assistant Secretary General Adnan 'Umran in Cairo, by unidentified studio announcer—live]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Mr Adnan, welcome. Could you assess for us the dimensions and developments of the

U.S.-NATO campaign directed against the Great Jamahiriyah, which also targets the Arab nation and the whole Arab world?

['Umran] On this occasion, I would like to state that Libya had expressed positive stances which met the requirements which were discussed within the Arab League, especially when Libya stressed its total condemnation of all kinds of terrorism; and also when it expressed readiness to resort to an international neutral committee of arbitration. This stance helped toward the adoption of a resolution within the Arab League. This resolution called for the formation of a commission composed from the Arab League and the United Nations to carry out a neutral investigation. To guarantee the neutrality of this investigation, doors were opened for international judges to attend as observers so as to guarantee the unveiling of the whole facts and studying everything that was mentioned in the files and accusations in questions.

We believe that this position presented to the United Nations—I had the honor to table this position at the UN Security Council on behalf of the Arab states and the Arab League [changes thought] regrettably, a different attitude prevailed which led to the adoption of Resolution 781 amid [words indistinct] circumstances. As you know, the Arab League pursued its efforts through intensive meetings of the seven-man committee which had also detected Libya's response and positive stances when it expressed willingness to respond by all means including the acceptance of a third neutral state to carry out the investigation. I believe, these stances should have presented the suitable framework for finding a solution to this crisis.

However, unfortunately, we witnessed a degree of obstinacy and inflexibility and a refusal of [word indistinct]. We reckon that the time is still appropriate and that the efforts should continue to find a peaceful settlement, or at least a solution that respects the provisions of the international law and also the UN Charter. This Charter talks about sovereignty whose principles should be respected [words indistinct]. We are aware that the majority of states have laws that prohibit the handing over of their citizens to another state unless an extradition treaty exists between them.

Also, Libya's gesture to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice was a very positive step. In addition to the respect of the international law provisions, this step also shows Libya's self-confidence, and that it was satisfied that any neutral commission which would undertake to deal with this issue can only reach an outcome which would refute the accusations.

Obviously, all these efforts did not meet with the required attention from the UN Security Council. Despite all this and following the imposition of sanctions and the embarkment on a new and more serious phase, I believe that further efforts should be deployed within the Arab League, action should continue to find the next way out that would enhance the respect of international law principles and which would provide the necessary background for reaching an acceptable solution. As we all know, an Arab League extraordinary session remains open because it can convene at any time. The seven-man delegation [words indistinct] has made constant efforts, it is required by the council of the extraordinary session to submit a report i.e. when this extraordinary session resumes the seven-man committee should submit a report to the Arab League Council. Then, the Council would assume its responsibilities and should discuss the developments of the issue and reach a solution that must be agreed on by the Arab states. [Passage omitted]

Mubarak Proposes Solution To Libyan Crisis

PM2404155292 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Apr 92 p1

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Proposes Extradition of Two Accused Libyans in Return for End to Sanctions and Closure of File"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has submitted a new proposal to settle the crisis between Libya and the West in a telephone conversation with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali, who is in Beijing. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Egyptian proposal focuses on the possibility of reaching an agreement providing for an exchange of undertakings between the two parties to the crisis with Libya, announcing a commitment to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 731, which stipulates that the two accused men be handed over in return for a promise by the United States, France, and Britain to support a new draft resolution, sponsored by the Arab states, that would lift the air, diplomatic, and military embargo against Libya as soon as the extradition is completed and the crisis file finally closed, regardless of the results of the questioning and trial of the two accused men.

In its contacts with the Western states, Egypt is concentrating on explaining the new Libyan proposal, which offers the possibility of having the two accused Libyans tried by a mixed court so as to ensure a more neutral and fairer trial, attended by Libyan representatives. The last point is acceptable in principle to the three states at this stage. It is also in harmony with the recent U.S. statement, commenting on the possibility of the two suspects' voluntarily giving themselves up, that it would guarantee a fair trial. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

ICO Urges Aid, UN Action To Assist Bosnians

LD2304203592 Riyadh SPA in English 1223 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Jeddah, April 23, SPA—The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has renewed condemnation of

the massacres being committed against the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina by the Serbian forces.

A statement issued by the Jeddah based organization on Wednesday said the Serbian forces are making desperate attempts to hinder the confident steps of that Muslim people towards freedom.

While expressing a grave concern over what is going on over there, Dr Hamid al-Gabid, secretary general of the Organization called on the U.N.'s Security Council to undertake urgent and effective measures to end the tragedy of the Islamic republic and to protect the lives and the legitimate rights of the people of the republic. He urged the international community, mainly the OIC's member countries and the Islamic Relief Organization to provide the necessary relief materials to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi—Progress in Peace Talks Not Expected

NC2504063892 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, by MBC correspondent Muhammad Krishan in Tunisia; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Qaddumi] We do not expect anything of substance to happen before the Israeli elections are held. The Israelis will continue to mouth their diversionary schemes as a tactic to obstruct the peace process. The Israelis do not want peace. What they want is to preserve and consolidate the status quo, which is why they hold on to the occupied land, encourage immigration, and continue to build settlements. No substantial progress will take place in the bilateral talks.

[Krishan] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, what part do you expect the United States to play in the current political process?

[Qaddumi] We do not think that the world, or the Arab parties, have entered this process with the illusion that negotiations with Israel will lead to any decisive results. That would be a big illusion. The United States should use all methods. The entire international community should use all methods to restrain Israel, make it cease the settlements, and force it to withdraw from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories. Otherwise, there will be no peace in the world and the region will edge toward another war.

If the United States wants to preserve its interests and create a new world—as it claims—on the principles of justice and respect for human rights, Israel should be stopped. Israel should respect international legitimacy as other countries did, countries on whom the United States during the Gulf war imposed the international legitimacy.

*Faysal al-Husayni Says No Alternative to Talks

92AE0330A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Apr 92 p 3

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory team to the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar; date and place not given: "Faysal al-Husayni to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: U.S. Position on Solution More Balanced Than Before; We Will Carry on With Negotiations Because No Other Alternative"]

[Text] Cairo—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory team to the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, expects that the Israeli Labor Party will have improved chances to win the elections scheduled to be held next June.

In an exclusive interview al-Husayni has pointed out that there is a principled Arab agreement not to conclude any separate accord with Israel unless it provides for a fair solution to the Palestinian issue. He also noted that there are ongoing consultations with Japan, the United States, Canada, and the European Community to ensure Palestinian participation in all committees emanating from the multilateral negotiations.

The Palestinian official ruled out the possibility of accepting the Israeli ideas on self-rule, emphasizing that these are in conflict with Resolution 242 and with the principle of land for peace. The following is AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's interview with Faysal al-Husayni:

['Abd-al-Sattar] Do you think that it is any use in continuing the bilateral negotiations between the Arab delegations and Israel even though no noteworthy progress has been made to date?

[Al-Husayni] First, the peace process has started and we have participated in it from the outset, despite Israel's intransigence, particularly on the formation of our delegation. We have participated because we feel that we have no alternative. Some may believe that the negotiations must be boycotted because of Israel's irresponsible positions on the peace process, but the higher Palestinian interest dictates that we rise to the level of responsibility and that we continue the negotiations war.

['Abd-al-Sattar] What is the strategy for coordination among the Arab delegations participating in the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] There is ongoing coordination among the four Arab delegations (from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine), and there is principled agreement to refuse to sign any separate accord with Israel unless a fair and comprehensive solution is developed for the Palestinian issue.

['Abd-al-Sattar] What is the main issue for the Palestinian delegation in the fifth round of negotiations set to begin in Washington on 27 April?

[Al-Husayni] There are fundamental issues which we will not cede, despite Israel's attempts to avoid discussing them, especially the settlement activity issue, protecting the Palestinian people, ending the escalation of violence at home [in the occupied territories], and the Palestinian plan for the transitional period.

Multilateral Negotiations and Palestinians

['Abd-al-Sattar] What about the Palestinian side's absence from the water, environmental, and arms committees emanating from the multilateral negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] Concerted contacts are currently under way with the parties concerned with these committees, especially the United States, Canada, Japan, the European Community, and Egypt, to persuade them that it is necessary that Palestinians participate in all the committees and that this participation must not be confined to the refugee and economic development committees.

['Abd-al-Sattar] What is the Palestinian position on moving the bilateral talks from Washington?

[Al-Husayni] All Arab delegations agree that it is essential to stay in Washington until progress is made in the bilateral negotiations. However, they have no objection to moving the negotiations to any European capital.

['Abd-al-Sattar] How possible is it that the Israeli self-rule plan will be accepted?

[Al-Husayni] Who says that what Elyaqim Rubinstein submitted to the fourth round of negotiations constitutes a plan? It is just personal ideas, not an Israeli plan. It is the "nonplan plan" or an Israeli "noisemaker" intended to score points with the U.S. media. The Israeli ideas contain no reference to a withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories, and they contradict Resolution 242, on which the invitations to the parties to the peace conference are based.

['Abd-al-Sattar] What is your assessment of the current U.S. position?

[Al-Husayni] There is positive progress in the U.S. position, which has become relatively balanced when compared to past positions. Washington's position on the issue of loan guarantees confirms this progress clearly. We demand, however, that the United States put more pressure on Israel to stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

['Abd-al-Sattar] What about representation for the Palestinian diaspora in the multilateral committees?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that it is difficult for Israel to continue dictating its opinion to the representatives of 33 countries participating in the multilateral negotiations.

['Abd-al-Sattar] What do you expect from the upcoming Israeli elections?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the Labor Party has a great chance to win the elections, and that it can form the next government if it allies itself with the leftist and Arab tendencies in Israel.

'Abd-al-Shafi—PLO 'Political Authority'

JN2704172992 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, leader of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has ruled out the Israelis pursuing the members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation after their recent meeting with Palestinian president and leader Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo. He added that it has become clear that the PLO leadership is the political authority to which this delegation turns.

In a statement to the press published in Tunis today, 'Abd-al-Shafi described Arab coordination as good. He pointed out that the Zionist position makes coordination a political matter that should not be neglected. He also said that we should not have participated in the multilateral negotiations. But, he added, after participating in the talks we have to conclude or implement any agreement in return for ending the Palestinian Arab-Zionist conflict in accordance with the provisions of international law, human rights, and UN resolutions.

PLO Officials Reject UK Conditions for Talks

JN2804084692 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Apr 92 p 17

[Text] Tunis—AL-DUSTUR—Palestinian sources have told AL-DUSTUR that the British Government that was recently formed following parliamentary elections has named two Palestinian officials with whom it is willing to hold talks. They are Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Fatah Central Committee member and adviser to the Palestinian president, and Faysal al-Husayni or Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian negotiating team.

PLO officials, however, including Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Political Department, have rejected the British invitation. They consider it interference in Palestinian domestic affairs and argue that acceptance of the British offer would set a serious precedent, thus allowing nations to choose Palestinian negotiators with whom they will talk, especially concerning the current peace efforts to resolve the Middle East problem.

Statement Refutes 'Lies' About Limited Strikes

JN2404184592 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] To refute and deny news reports aired by Zionist enemy radio and other Zionist media which spread lies, a statement has recently been distributed in Palestine refuting and rebutting news reports propagated by the enemy to the effect that strikes will be exclusively

observed on the ninth of each month to mark the start of a new month of the intifadah.

The statement urged our people's masses to remain alert and exercise caution to thwart the enemy's efforts to spread confusion among the people's ranks with the psychological warfare which the Zionist enemy has been engaged in to delude people into believing that the intifadah has started to diminish and weaken. The statement affirmed that the intifadah is being stepped up day after day with successful methods and ignoring the lies being propagated. This intifadah, the statement noted, is forging ahead to achieve the national objectives of return and self-determination.

Furthermore, the statement urged the masses to observe strike days and other nationalist activities as set by the popular and national committees of the victorious intifadah to achieve the objectives of this sweeping popular revolution. Our people, the statement added, are too aware and concerned to be deceived by the Zionist enemy, which attempts to sow sedition from time to time, particularly at this critical phase during which our Palestine question is being exposed to a process of political butchering.

Egypt Refuses Visas to Territories Delegation

JN2604095892 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Apr 92 p 21

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—A Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories has been unable to attend the Mediterranean Nongovernmental Organizations conference due to open in Cairo today because the Egyptian Consulate in Amman refused to grant its members entry visas to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The delegation, comprising Khalil Tuma, a journalist, and Nihayah Du'ayq, an agricultural engineer, and representing the Palestinian Land and Water Institution and the Palestinian Agricultural Aid Committee, arrived in Amman on Tuesday [21 April] to attend the two-day conference following an official invitation from the Cairo-based Arab Bureau for Youth and Environment.

Palestinian Reportedly Fears Mosad Retaliation

LD2504204192 Tripoli JANA in English 1752 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Oslo, al-Tayr [April] 25, Jamahiriyah News Agency—A Norwegian newspaper reported that a Palestinian national sought asylum at [word indistinct] fear of retaliation by the Israeli secret service (Mosad) who asked him to assassinate a senior Palestinian official in return for a large sum of money which he refused.

The paper pointed out that Mosad offered a lage sum of money and protection to the Palestinian national to assassinate a PLO official in Cyprus.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC To Maintain 22.98 BPD Production Ceiling

AU2404131992 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Vienna, April 24 (AFP)—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has decided to maintain its production ceiling at 22.98 million barrels a day, Indonesian oil minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita announced here Friday afternoon.

He said that the ceiling "remains unchanged", following a meeting of OPEC's market monitoring committee here. The ceiling was set in mid-February, and analysts had generally not expected any change now.

Oil prices have been well below the organization's goal of 21 dollars a barrel, and Iran had pressed for lowering the output ceiling to help boost oil market prices, but Saudi Arabia was firmly opposed.

OPEC Head—Kuwaiti Production 'Not a Problem'

LD2404221592 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The OPEC secretary general, Dr. Subroto, said that at their meeting in Vienna, the OPEC oil ministers reviewed the development of Kuwait's oil production, which rose from 780,000 barrels a day during March to about 925,000 barrels a day at present.

In a statement to KUNA, he added that Oil Minister Hamud 'Abdallah al-Ruqba had informed the oil ministers of the OPEC countries in their meeting today that Kuwait's production will reach about 1 million barrels a day in the near future, before reaching 1.5 million barrels a day at the end of this year, which is the official quota allocated to Kuwait as a minimum level for its production ceiling.

Dr. Subroto pointed out that Kuwait's production is not a problem for OPEC, and that Kuwait has the right to increase and develop its production.

Kuwait Minister on Production Control Committee

LD2504184692 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Vienna: The oil minister, Dr. Hamud 'Abdallah al-Ruqba, said that the orientation which prevailed over the meeting of OPEC oil and energy ministers has supported the idea of reviving the production control committee which used to exist in the past. He added in a statement to KUNA at the end of the meeting that OPEC could seek the help of experts and independent foreign establishments in this committee to supervise production and the member countries' adherence to production quotas and production.

The oil minister pointed out that the issues and matters which will be put forward to the ordinary ministerial

conference, scheduled to convene on 21 May next in Vienna, will be decisive for OPEC's future and its oil policies in the light of the information and the events taking place in the market and in the international arena.

He pointed out that the OPEC countries have until now been relatively committed to the production ceiling which amounts to around 23 million barrels per day, while the Organization's actual production is estimated at around 23.2 million barrels per day. He pointed out that the current average prices are nearly the same as they used to be in February last, which is considered an improvement.

He affirmed that commitment and solidarity inside OPEC will be two principal factors in maintaining market stability and the interests of the producing countries.

Iran Denies Khark Island Delivery Delays

LD2604133792 Vienna OPECNA in English 1143 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, 24 April (OPECNA)—Iranian oil ministry officials have denied press reports of delays at the Khark Island oil terminal and have pointed to an increase in contract sales to Japanese customers in the second quarter.

A ministry spokesman said here Thursday that contracts had been written for the delivery of 338,000 barrels a day to Japan, up six percent from the same period last year. Iran delivered 317,000 barrels a day to Japan in the second quarter of 1991. The ministry said improving weather had sped up the loading of oil tankers at Khark Island.

Some press sources, quoting Japanese oil executives based in the Gulf, had reported reductions in the purchase of Iranian crude by Japanese customers due to congestion and 'heavy traffic' of oil tankers at Khark Island which had resulted in long delays.

Egypt

'Senior' Source Denies Report on Libyan Proposal

NC2404132092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1244 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—A senior-level information source has commented on a report broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo stating that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has proposed putting the two Lockerbie suspects on trial before a mixed court in Cairo that includes representatives of the various concerned parties. The source told MENA today that Col. al-Qadhdhafi did not submit the proposals cited by the radio station and which had earlier been reported by some international media.

The radio station had cited Arab diplomatic sources as saying that Col. al-Qadhdhafi submitted new proposals to President Husni Mubarak which include placing the two Libyan suspects at the disposal of a U.S.-French-British judicial team on neutral territory with the participation of a Libyan judicial delegation and under the supervision of an international judicial team either from the United Nations or an agreed-upon group of countries. The report stated that the proposed neutral territory might be Cairo.

Al-Qadhdhafi Asylum Plan Denied

NC2604185892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1833 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—A high-level media source has completely denied a report published by the British newspaper THE TIMES today that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, is very angry over suggestions that he received from Egypt and Saudi Arabia that he can put an end to the Lockerbie problem by stepping down and turning over power to one of the opposition leaders living in exile. The paper claimed that Egypt and Saudi Arabia offered to grant Col. al-Qadhdhafi political asylum and assurances that he will not be surrendered to stand trial if developments in the Lockerbie case demand that and the guilt of the Libyan defendants becomes clear.

In a statement to MENA the source affirmed that Egypt's policy is clear: It does not interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab or foreign state.

Official Denies Central Bank Receives Libya Funds

NC2604142492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—A senior Egyptian Central Bank official today denied a report in today's edition of the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Libyan Government recently deposited $800 million at the Egyptian Central Bank in anticipation of Western measures to freeze Libyan assets abroad.

Central Bank Deputy Governor Muhammad al-Barbari told MENA's international economic bulletin that this news is utterly baseless.

Traffic With Libya Returns to 'Normal'

NC2404154992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1437 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)—Ahmad Shawqi, chairman of the board of the Arab Union for Land Transportation, has said that traffic between Egypt and Libya is normal and has returned to pre- [UN] resolution levels.

He stated that his company carries out two trips a day between Cairo and Tripoli. A number of extra cars are set aside for emergencies.

Foreign Minister Musa Comments on Gulf Tour

NC2604172892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1549 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this afternoon, ending a Gulf tour that took him to Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain and during which he conveyed messages from President Husni Mubarak to the leaders of these countries.

In an arrival statement he denied that differences in the true sense of the word exist among the Damascus Declaration countries, but he mentioned that views on some issues may differ.

He noted that papers and proposals put forth to the Damascus Declaration countries can be studied and discussed in their next meeting, which is due to be held in Doha in late May.

Asked whether he submitted new Egyptian proposals to boost the effectiveness of the Damascus Declaration during his Gulf tour, Musa replied that he did not forward any proposals because Egypt had already put forward its proposals and because there are other proposals by fraternal countries to implement the declaration.

He noted that the coincidence of his Gulf tour with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's tour of the region was good and useful.

He said that the Damascus Declaration countries' next meeting must be a working meeting to implement the papers and proposals and to determine the means of implementing the declaration.

He described the outcome of his Gulf tour as good and very useful in terms of coordination and reviewing current stands and problems in the Arab world, particularly the Gulf. He said that during his tour views were exchanged frankly and objectively in the interest of the general Arab situation and Arab relations.

He added that he sensed during his meetings with officials in Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, and Manama a spirit of cooperation and coordination and their objective appreciation of the region's situation.

Musa was asked about the Arab League Council foreign ministers meetings due to be held in Cairo on Tuesday and the need to continue Arab efforts to resolve the Libyan-Western crisis. He replied that efforts to contain the problem must continue, and he noted President Husni Mubarak's recent assertion that the process of movement within the framework of respecting Arab legitimacy and responsibility is part of our responsibility.

Musa pointed out that the Arab foreign ministers have a specific agenda but that an additional meeting will be held on the periphery of the ministerial meeting to discuss coordination among the Arab parties participating in the Middle East peace negotiations.

He expressed his hope that progress will be made in the fifth round of the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations due to begin in Washington on Monday and observed: We are confident that the peace process will continue and that all those taking part in it agree that it should continue.

Replying to a question on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent statement that he will not relinquish any occupied Arab territory, Musa said that these statements are electoral and meaningless.

Commenting on Israel's determination not to attend the multilateral negotiations if the diaspora Palestinians participate in them, Musa stated that the Israelis are free to say whatever they want and that the whole world will take part in these negotiations.

Asked whether he discussed Gulf security during his tour, especially after the recent Iranian activity, Foreign Minister Musa replied that it was the subject of discussion.

Assesses Lockerbie, Regional Ties

PM2704155692 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Apr 92 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani in Muscat on 23 April]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Ghani] President Husni Mubarak has stated that there is a glimmer of hope for the settlement of the Lockerbie crisis. What is that hope based on?

[Musa] We must have hope when tackling all problems. We are all committed—the Arab states, and especially Egypt, are all committed—to continuing efforts with the Libyan brothers and other parties to find a solution acceptable to all and in line with international legitimacy and in the interest of all. We must have hope. That is what President Mubarak said.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Do you expect military action against Libya, and what position would you take in the event of such action?

[Musa] We do not expect any military action against Libya, and there must be none, because military action will not help resolve any issue and because we have been making efforts. If such an action did occur, we would not accept it and would oppose it.

['Abd-al-Ghani] The Egyptian position on the Lockerbie issue has given rise to some questions. Egypt is a main ally of the West, which is contronting Libya. Is it showing solidarity with Libya because of the Egyptians working in Libya, or is this genuine solidarity connected with Arab and good-neighbor relations?

[Musa] First, there is no East and West anymore, so in that sense your question is inaccurate. There are no blocs or alliances. When we take a stand on a certain issue and try to formulate a position, we do so on the basis of principles and interests, and we aim to serve the interests of the brothers throughout the entire Arab world. That has always been Egypt's position and policy.

['Abd-al-Ghani] You maintain that next month's meeting of the Damascus Declaration states' foreign ministers will be decisive. What if nothing is achieved, keeping in mind Iran's "rejection" and what some regard as the coolness of the region's states?

[Musa] Iran's position has nothing to do with the continuation or noncontinuation of the Damascus Declaration. We cannot deny Iran the right to comment, condemn, or disagree, but the continuation of the Damascus Declaration is our own affair and up to us.

['Abd-al-Ghani] But the states of the [Gulf] region do take the Iranian position into consideration.

[Musa] The states of the region signed that declaration, and we have met in that connection more than once. Egypt and other fraternal states have submitted documents having to do with implementation. What is important is that we talk in the context of the Damascus Declaration, which comprises eight Arab states, which gives it special significance and excludes non-Arab states. That must in no way prevent frank discussion of matters that concern one state or another, as long as it is understood that this right applies to everyone and is not exclusive to one or two states.

As for your second point, there is no coolness on the part of the Gulf states. We are still in the phase of exchanging views before moving on to the phase of implementation. The next meeting will be decisive. Will we move on to implementation, or will there be other matters? It is best to defer an objective answer until after the meeting scheduled for the end of May.

['Abd-al-Ghani] The Sultanate of Oman attempted to mediate between Egypt and Iran, and it has been repeatedly claimed that the attempt produced nothing concrete.

[Musa] To prevent misunderstandings and fishing in troubled waters, we say that Iran is a fraternal Islamic state. We have differenaces with it which can be resolved, with or without mediation. The matter is still under consideration.

['Abd-al-Ghani] The Security Council is making new moves regarding Iraq. Do you believe that Iraq deserves all that pressure despite the resolutions that it has already implemented? Does Egypt have any desire to turn over a new leaf, overcome the effects of the Gulf crisis, and allow Iraq to return to the Arab fold?

[Musa] We always hope for the Iraqi people's return to the Arab fold, because they are part of the forces of the Arab nation, which cares about their present and future. The problem, however, is known to every Arab citizen. The bitterness about what happened is still intense. We wish that Iraq would eliminate the obstacles to the implementation of the UN resolutions which should be implemented to ensure security for the Iraqi people under international legitimacy.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Is Egypt's extensive diplomatic activity aimed at forming a regional front against religious extremism, which some consider to be the main cause of instability in the Middle East?

[Musa] No resistance front or any such front is being formed. We speak frankly to the friendly, fraternal, and neighboring states, and coordination with them is possible in many fields, but the formation of fronts in the sense that you mentioned is out of the question.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Although the date and venue for the fifth round of Middle East negotiations have been set, there have been hard-line Israeli statements, such as that by Yitzhaq Shamir reaffirming his refusal to make concessions or to withdraw from any occupied territory. Do you see this as merely an electioneering statement or as a certain indication that the peace process is faltering?

[Musa] I hope that it is just part of the election campaign and the familiar upstaging. As for his (Shamir's) assertion that he will not withdraw from the occupied territory, if that is his real position, then the Arabs will not accept it, there will be no peaceful settlement, and no state in the world will recognize Israeli control of the occupied territory. Whatever Israel does, its presence in that territory will remain illegitimate, unacceptable, and insecure.

Proposed Israeli 'Leasing' of Golan Criticized

NC2804072292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The AL-AHRAM newspaper asserts that the idea of [Israel's] leasing the Golan from Syria while the Israeli occupation forces remain there reflects an old settlement notion and a mentality that does not belong to the spirit of this age and which fails to take into account the region and its people. It added that this idea is more like a joke. In its editorial in Tuesday's edition it says: If we were to agree on the logic of military security espoused by Israel's generals, Israel would have had the right to annex whatever Arab lands it wants. Regrettably, this notion persists in the visions of, if not in the plans for, a Greater Israel?

The paper adds that for this reason Israel utterly rejects the principle of achieving security through peace, after it has been proved both in theory and practice that armies cannot protect borders against missile attacks.

In conclusion, the paper notes that Israel interprets a security achieved through peace as one in which the Arabs relinquish their territories to Israel, as if the Arab countries exist in the region only for Israel to swallow up their land gradually in order to preserve its own security.

Libya

U.S. Trying To 'Sell' Lockerbie 'Smear Campaign'

LD2604111592 Tripoli JANA in English 1748 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 25, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The AL-JAMAHARIYAH newspaper which is published by the revolutionary committees featured an article on its back page under the heading 'The Elephant Riders and the Elephant Party'. The article went as follows:

What convinced me that United States is not to be trusted was [words indistinct] life in the United States in his book 'The Travelling Salesman' where the main character in the story represents the typical example of American economic, social, cultural and psychological character.

In the story he gave the main character the name Willie Loman and portrayed him as an emigrant as opposed to being born there which is worse than all those who travel the seas since the time of Christopher Colombus in 1492. Then the story moves on to portray the individualistic tendency existing within the trade jungle after it became a great nation enjoying a strong economy able to provide an enjoyable life.

It appears that Loman is not satisfied except in this economic jungle but eventually, as a result of stress he wears himself down in a job which most Americans are involved in. This job is that of a travelling salesman and the main occupation of Americans is business. And the trade jungle is full of the craze of competition which resulted in the law which depends on the principle of success to be able to remain in the market. And failure means that one will always be below the poverty line. Thus Miller is trying to show that the party which wishes to gain control usually has 'salesmen' to sell their platform to the voters.

The church also tries to sell its 'products' using the same type of competition to succeed in winning over followers

to prevent a deterioration in moral values. The American State Department is yet another which tries to sell its wares. Those include democracy, human rights according to American standards and the fight against terrorism.

The Zionist lobby in the United States is also quite active in using travelling salesman and have nothing really to offer but Israel's interest which is waiting for the appearance of the Messiah after a decisive war. Everything has its price, and nothing is free including coffins and graves.

Thus this genius of a writer Arthur Miller has used such imagery which represents everybody. Eventually the character realizes that this life becomes devoid of meaning whereby demand for success is greater than reality.

At the end of the story the character dies and we see his wife, children and a family friend near the grave bidding him farewell and thus the title was changed to "Death of a Salesman". Thus we can see the travelling salesman in the Republican Party in the United States who have for the past 5 months trying to sell the Lockerbie product and the smear campaign concerning this issue as propogated, for the consumption of both internal and external public opinion. It also reached the United Nations and was put on sale within the Security Council and the media was full of reports about it.

All of this is for those greedy ambitions after the collapse of the international balance of power between the two superpowers. And we wonder what future awaits mankind at this time which is similar to the period when the League of Nations broke up.

Thus given the Republican Parties underhand election campaigns all have to be expecting a Crusader onslaught.

Sudan

Islamic Front's al-Turabi Views Peace Talks, War

AB2704214592 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Interview with National Islamic Front leader Hasan al-Turabi by Robin White in London; date not given—recorded; from the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Sudan Government is now set to meet at least one of the two SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebel factions for peace talks in Abuja next month. Lam Akol, whose Nasir faction broke away from John Garang last August, says it will attend. Meanwhile, the Garang faction of the SPLA is facing an offensive in the South under which it has lost a string of important towns since the beginning of March.

The leader of the northern-based National Islamic Front, Hasan al-Turabi, is often seen as the real driving force behind the Khartoum government, and he is particularly unpopular among southerners for his Islamic political views. Dr. al-Turabi is in London at the moment. Robin White asked him why the military offensive is still going on if the Sudan Government is preparing for talks:

[Begin recording] [Al-Turabi] Well, the government was keen on relief in Juba, and it is now almost impossible to supply Juba by air. So they had to free the river transport to Juba and that is why they took Bor. But then, if you want to stay on the river you would probably have also to take care of the post further beyond the river.

[White] So you are saying this is a kind of limited offensive?

[Al-Turabi] That's right. It is not, for example, targeting Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria.

[White] So it is just to relieve Juba, nothing more?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. Probably also to cut off the supplies from Kenya to the SPLA, but they are not targeting the whole area controlled by SPLA.

[White] You say to cut off supplies from Kenya. You have hard evidence that supplies are coming in through Kenya?

[Al-Turabi] Well, they have to come from Kenya. There is nowhere else that they could come. There are (?military) observers on the Ugandan border all along. I mean, with the agreement with Uganda, Ethiopia, of course, is no longer providing any logistic support to the movement. So the only place they could come from is Kenya.

[White] But are you also trying to beat the SPLA to the negotiating table?

[Al-Turabi] That's likely. Nobody ever believed that the problem would be settled by military conquest. But for many years now, John Garang has been opting out of peace talks. He refused to join a liberal democracy, he refused to join the new regime, and it was thought that he should be persuaded that he won't win on the battlefield and he would have to come round to the table.

[White] You say he can't win, but can you win a military battle yourselves?

[Al-Turabi] No question. Neither party could win an outright victory, and the idea was to impress upon John Garang the fact that it is only through peace negotiations that this can be settled.

[White] Do you yourself think that this war is worth fighting? It is costing a great deal of money. Masses of resources are going into it.

[Al-Turabi] But maintaining the country intact is worth fighting, perhaps, because if...

[White, interrupting] Do you believe in keeping the country intact, in one piece, yourself?

[Al-Turabi] Absolutely.

[White] I think it would be fair to say that you are one of the most hated people in southern Sudan. Do you accept that you, above all, are disliked by southern Sudanese for what you stand for?

[Al-Turabi] I don't really think so. I am the only one who ever offered substantive ideas for solving the southern problem. I was the one who offered the regional government formula back in 1964 after the fall of 'Abbud. I am...

[White, interrupting] But southerners blame you for shari'ah. They blame you for that. They think you are trying to force that on them.

[Al-Turabi] But, anyway, shari'ah has very little to do with this conflict. We have had this conflict with us since before independence, and shari'ah was promulgated only late in 1983, long after John Garang had left the country...

[White, interrupting] But there is a religious problem. You have to admit that there is a religious problem.

[Al-Turabi] No, it is just used to sell the propaganda. I don't think there is any religious tension in the Sudan.

[White] Do you travel to the South yourself?

[Al-Turabi] I do.

[White] Whereabouts have you been to?

[Al-Turabi] Oh, I have been to Juba, to W'ar, to Malakal, all over to (?Nimule), Torit, anywhere.

[White] Do you not sense that there is a basic antipathy in the South towards the North?

[Al-Turabi] Well, there is a certain ethnic suspicion of the North. But it is natural, I mean, between different tribes all over the country. The country is a very complex country with 150 languages and many ethnic groups, and there is always that level of mistrust of another ethnicity. But I don't think it is an ideological and final attitude.

[White] So, there are going to be peace talks it seems. What chances do you think of anything coming out of the talks?

[Al-Turabi] The chances are much better than anytime before. I think John Garang perhaps now had realized that he had to talk, and this is a great step forward. The northerners and southerners have come close to each other because so many southerners have come to the North to find out that there are no discriminations, there are no grounds for all mistrust from a distance, and they see...

[White, interrupting] You say there are no grounds, no discrimination, but people who have come from the South are being forced out of Khartoum in large numbers.

[Al-Turabi] Oh, these are not people who have come from the South. These are people who have come from the west because of the drought, from the South because of the war, and from the rural areas because of...

[White, interrupting] But you are claiming that southerners who come to Khartoum are well looked after?

[Al-Turabi] Well, there is absolutely no discrimination. They are just like anybody else.

[White] Back to the peace talks, you were saying the chances were good.

[Al-Turabi] Yes, they are much better now because there is a formula now, at least, for settling the substantive issues that divided the North and South. For the first time a federation is going to the proposed, and both parties more or less agree to it.

[White] There have been allegations by John Garang's SPLA that the Khartoum government has already reached some kind of deal with the splinter group of the SPLA, Lam Akol's splinter group. Do you know if there is any truth in that?

[Al-Turabi] That's right. That's right. Yes...

[White, interrupting] You have reached a deal with them?

[Al-Turabi] It is not a final deal, but they have reached more or less a consensus about most of the issues, and that they are waiting for the formal talks to produce, so to speak, a formal agreement.

[White] Garang seems to suspect that there is some kind of military deal between you and Lam Akol's people.

[Al-Turabi] No, there is no military deal between the government and Lam Akol's people. It is only a political deal. Of course, this Nasir group represents the Nuer and the Dinka who control Upper Nile, while Garang is Bahr Ghazal. His constituency is there. He is now fighting actually beyond his tribal constituency.

[White] What about the story that the Ethiopian Government is now helping the northern troops in southern Sudan by letting them come through Ethiopia?

[Al-Turabi] Well, it was only a short detour that they made round (Fashala). I don't know if the central government of Ethiopia is aware of it. That border anyway is...

[White, interrupting] So they made a little detour through Ethiopia?

[Al-Turabi] That's right. That's right. To surprise (?such an army) they didn't come from the west to the east, but they made a detour and attacked the post from within what is Ethiopian territory, but SPLA was already in Ethiopian territory.

[White] So you are saying the Ethiopian Government didn't know about this, or what?

[Al-Turabi] I am not sure they ever would know because that frontier is such a vast area that there is hardly [words indistinct] presence there. [end recording]

Bahrain

Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa Begins Visit

Urges Arab Role in New World Order

NC2504174292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Manama, 25 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that the new world order is not targeting Arab states. He stressed that Arab states should not confront [tuwajih] that world order but rather should try to participate in it.

Speaking to reporters in Manama today, Musa said that Arabs had attempted to conceal their disagreements in the past. He affirmed, however, that this concept has changed and that Arab states should put everything forward for discussion.

Musa rejected insinuations by some reporters that the new world order targets Arabs alone and that Syria might be the third Arab state to undergo UN-imposed sanctions after Iraq and Libya. He said that Syria had not been accused in connection with the blowing up of the U.S. plane over Lockerbie in 1988.

Notes 'Differences' Among Arab States

NC2504153892 Paris AFP in English 1440 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Manama, April 25 (AFP)—Arabs are divided over the form of cooperation they set out to secure after the Gulf War, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said here Saturday, contradicting statements he made last week.

"Certain differences exist among the positions of Arab countries" that have signed the Damascus Declaration, Musa told a press conference.

The declaration is an Arab framework for military and economic cooperation signed by Syria, Egypt and the six nations forming the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The accord was signed in March 1991, days after the Gulf War ended, but it has remained a dead letter as Kuwait and Bahrain have made clear their preference for defence pacts with Western nations.

In particular, the declaration calls for building an Arab military force with Egypt and Syria forming the backbone.

"It is not shameful to admit that differences exist, but what is more disgraceful is not to do anything about solving them with honesty," Musa added.

The provisions of the declaration were to be adopted in Qatar during a meeting of foreign ministers of the signatory countries.

Musa said that a ministerial meeting of the signatory countries would be held in Doha in the second half of May to deal with the "implementation of the clauses of this document." He did not elaborate.

On Thursday he said that the Doha meeting would be the "last chance to implement the document."

He also stressed then that there were "no differences" among the GCC members, Egypt and Syria on the Damascus Declaration.

The Egyptian foreign minister's visit to Bahrain is the fourth and last leg of a tour that has also taken him to Qatar, Oman and the UAE.

Ministry Seeks ICJ Role in Qatar Dispute

JN2804061092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Manama, 27 Apr (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Bahraini Foreign Ministry has said that Bahrain reasserts its position declared in previous statements that the way to resolve the differences between the State of Bahrain and the State of Qatar is by having recourse to the international judiciary, represented by the International Court of Justice [ICJ] [words indistinct] by the two parties [words indistinct] a final, binding verdict for both parties.

Oman

Diplomatic Relations Established With Kazakhstan

LD2704202892 Riyadh SPA in English 1921 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Muscat, April 27, SPA—The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Kazakhstan have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the level of ambassadors as of Monday.

A joint communique signed in the Kazakh Republic Alma-Ata by the Omani Ambassador to Russia Dawud al-Hamdan and Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Qasim Tokayev, confirmed that relations between the two countries would be based on the principles of peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's affairs.

Libyan Envoy Gives al-Qadhdhafi Message to Sultan

JN2504133592 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has received a written message from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The message was conveyed to His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab Al Sa'id, personal representative of his majesty the sultan, when he received at his office this morning Husni Salih al-Mudir, the Libyan ambassador accredited to the State of Kuwait, who is currently visiting the Sultanate.

Meets With State Minister

JN2504134692 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, received at his office this morning Husni Salih al-Mudir, the Libyan ambassador accredited to the fraternal State of Kuwait. Salih relayed a written message from Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The message concerns fraternal bilateral ties, issues of common interest, and developments in the Libyan-Western crisis.

Saudi Arabia

Russian Minister Praises Saudi Regional Role

LD2504132192 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev, foreign minister of the Russian Federation, has emphasized the major role played by the Kingdom in the Middle East. In a news statement published today he said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enjoys significant political weight and is regarded as an important element in the Arab world. He added that it also has effective influence on the situation in the Middle East.

Mr. Kozyrev went on to say that the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Russian Republic is one of his country's most important achievements in its links with the Arab world.

Republic of Yemen

Further on Attack Against Justice Minister

Minister To Be Treated in Germany

NC2704145392 Paris AFP in English 1438 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Sanaa, April 27 (AFP)—Yemen's Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam has been flown to Germany for an urgent eye operation after he was shot by gunmen in the capital, officials here said Monday.

Sallam was attacked Sunday in central Sanaa and left the same day on a regular Yemenia flight to Frankfurt. Officials did not specify at which hospital he would be treated.

Hospital sources here had said the minister was shot in the legs [as received] and that his life was not in danger.

The unidentified gunmen fired on the minister's car and forced Sallam, his driver and a bodyguard to get out of the vehicle, witnesses told AFP. They then opened fire again, also wounding the guard, before escaping.

The justice minister belongs to the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), which has shared power with the Popular General Congress of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih since the country's unification in May 1990.

Three YSP officials have been assassinated since February. Newspapers of the party from the former Marxist state of South Yemen have blamed the killings on Muslim fundamentalist extremists opposed to secularism.

Ministers Hold Emergency Session

JN2704124192 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers met in an emergency session this morning under brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The Council discussed yesterday's treacherous attack against brother Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam.

President Calls For Cohesion

JN2704094992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Sanaa, 27 Apr (INA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has emphasized that Yemeni unity has created a new spirit in the Yemeni society for enhancing its capabilities and potentials in continuing its creativity and civilization.

In a lecture he delivered at the Yemeni Staff and Command College and which was broadcast last night, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih explained that those who are not pleased to see Yemen united, stable, and progressing will continue to conspire against its unity and to obstruct it.

INA's correspondent in Sanaa said that the Yemeni president emphasized that confronting conspiracies and challenges is the responsibility of all Yemenis who are concerned about their unity and the progress of their homeland, especially the armed forces and security forces.

He emphasized that it is important for the Yemenis to shoulder their responsibilities at this important stage in the history of the Yemeni people and their homeland, and to strengthen national cohesion and the domestic front.

Peace Council Urges Unity

JN2704125892 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity has denounced the criminal attack against brother Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam.

In a statement issued today the Council urged a condemnation of this criminal act and further efforts to reinforce the internal front [words indistinct] stability and the march of [word indistinct] democratic action.

Foreign Minister Opposes New Borders' 'Imposition'

JN2804060492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Upon his arrival in Cairo [to attend the Arab League's 97th ordinary session] Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has stated that the imposition of new borders between Kuwait and Iraq is not the best means of establishing peace and stability in the region. Those who seek peace should reach agreements which completely satisfy the two parties to the conflict.

Saddam Receives RCC, Ba'th Officials on Birthday

JN2804093892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received well-wishers who congratulated him on his birthday.

President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, received 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Taha Yasin Ramadan and Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC members and vice presidents; Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, RCC member and prime minister; and the RCC members.

Comrade leader Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, also received members of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party, and Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office.

Members of the RCC and the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party congratulated the president on his birthday, which is a national holiday for our people and the happiest occasion for all Iraqis—men and women—wherever they are in the land of the Republic of Iraq. The well-wishers asked Almighty God to grant his excellency a long life and good health to continue his blessed jihad for the sake of the exemplary homeland, great Iraq; to achieve the just objectives of the Arab nation; and to raise high the banner of Islam and Muslims. They also asked God on this occasion to grant our people final and comprehensive victory in the last chapter of aggression and to abort the efforts of the enemies and agents.

The president thanked his brothers and comrades on the road of faith and struggle, asking Almighty God to guard lofty Iraq with His care, to bestow His well-being and blessings on Iraq's faithful and struggling people, and to grant them final victory over their enemies, the enemies of God and mankind.

Senior Officials Send Congratulations

JN2704165692

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic on 26 and 27 April carries within its newscasts texts of cables from senior Iraqi state and party officials to President Saddam Husayn congratulating him on his birthday of 28 April. The cables praise the Iraqi leader and his positions, pledge continued loyalty, and vow to defend Iraq and its principles.

In its 1030 GMT newscast on 26 April the radio carries texts of cables from 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council; and Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan. In its 1400 GMT newscast on the same day the radio carries texts of a cable from Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf and another from Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi. The other Baghdad radio newscasts on 26 and 27 April carry texts of congratulatory cables from Defense Minister General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, and National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih. Cables from Ba'th officials 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, Mizban Khadr Hadi, and Kamil Yasin Rashid are also read. Other cables come from 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs, and from Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization.

The three-minute cable sent by Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf extends heartfelt congratulations and says that this is a dear occasion for the Iraqi people. Ma'ruf adds: "The primary source of the intimate relationship between you and the sons of the Iraqi people is your love for the people and your dedication to elevating great Iraq's status and the nation's prestige and pride."

Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi says in his cable that Saddam's birthday anniversary this year acquires special significance because "the aggression has been defeated and those harboring evil against the nation have been hit by their own guile." He adds that the enemies only reaped losses and defeat and that future generations will know that Saddam's era was an era of well-being and welfare.

The four-minute cable sent by Defense Minister General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, as read out during the Baghdad radio 1600 GMT newscast on 26 April, says that the 28th of April has become a turning point in contemporary Arab history because President Saddam Husayn is the leader of the Arabs' victorious march and revolution.

In his cable to the president, which was also carried during the Baghdad radio 1600 GMT newscast on 26 April, Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan says: "The march of jihad and construction is proceeding without retreat, defying the will of the forces of the sinful 30-state aggression, which was led by the United States, the enemy of peoples." He adds that under Saddam's wise and courageous leadership Iraq "managed to hold out like a strong mountain in the face of the most powerful world powers." These powers, he goes on to say, "are trying to turn our strong pride into hateful humiliation, which is unacceptable to our genuine values and valiant souls. But they can never obliterate Iraq's bright sun."

As read during the 1400 GMT newscast on 27 April, the congratulatory cable sent to President Saddam Husayn by Husayn Kamil Hasan, supervisor of the Military

Industrialization Organization, notes the construction of an Iraqi agricultural tractor over a period of only two months, and says that this is a gift to the president on his birthday. The message notes the organization's efforts to counter the blockade by concentrating on agricultural industry. The cable adds: "Great Iraq will remain brave, proud, and impregnable to enemies."

Reportage on Arab Popular Forces Conference

Ba'th Official Urges End to Blockade

JN2504173192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC] began its first meeting in Baghdad this morning to outline the resolutions and activities approved by the APFC during its third conference, which was held in Baghdad on 10 November 1991 under the slogan Lift the Blockade on Iraq.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party and the official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, delivered the opening speech. He emphasized that the historic Mother of Battles has projected all the central Arab causes forcefully and capably. He said that the Arab masses and their vital forces should step up their struggle in light of the message of faith launched by historic leader President Saddam Husayn to clear the al-Aqsa Mosque, holy Jerusalem, and all Palestine of the filth of Zionism and its strategic ally in Washington.

He said: The first meeting of the APFC's General Secretariat comes at a very critical and serious militant period in which the onslaught of world imperialism, led by the United States and its Western allies, is escalating in collusion with Zionism and its aggressive base in Tel Aviv, and in coordination with some Arab rulers who are servants of the foreigners and who have agreed to descend to the quagmire of treason and disgrace.

The member of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party asserted that the construction effort taking place throughout Iraq is legendary, in the full sense of the word, and is a source of pride for every Arab. He said that in record time and under the slogan Lift the Blockade of Iraq the construction strugglers have been able to rebuild destroyed buildings and the infrastructure, which the national economy depends on, including industrial, agricultural, and telecommunications areas; centers of construction and awakening; bridges, roads, centers of science and worship, and others. This achievement, he said, has spiritual meanings and provides true and honest evidence that Iraq has inherited the most genuine of human civilizations, one that is greater and stronger than frustration and despair. He also said that this achievement proves that the Arab nation, which has scored a victory in the Mother of Battles, has foiled the enemies' plans and will remain a nation of civilization and glory.

The member of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party also called on the Arabs, the Islamic nations, and the international community to lift the inhuman blockade imposed on Iraq, to contribute to the reconstruction campaign and to prove the unity of stands taken during the Mother of Battles, and to denounce the recent Iranian air aggression against eastern Iraq, as well as the Tehran rulers' occupation of Abu-Musa' Islands in the Arabian Gulf.

As for the serious conspiracy being concocted against Libya, the member of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party said that the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah and its militant people are facing the same vile Atlantic onslaught which was directed against leader Saddam Husayn's Iraq.

APFC Secretary General Sa'd Qasim Hammudi also delivered a speech in which he said: We hope that this meeting will be the beginning of an organized effort to build the APFC's organizational structures and to form its branches throughout the Arab homeland, and in Arab communities throughout the world, to mobilize pan-Arab energy and defend the higher interests of Arabism against the vile, anti-Arab, U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist alliance.

The APFC secretary general added that the internal and external challenges facing us are numerous and serious because the forces of imperialism, Zionism, and anti-Arabism are making efforts to continue the occupation and usurpation of Arab land to enslave and humiliate Arab masses and to plunder their natural resources, oil, and water, as well as their minds. He added that Iraq's inspired construction efforts, the Palestinian revolution of the heroes of the stones and knives against the fascist Zionists, and Libya's rejection of the aggressive Atlantic blackmail should increase creativity, steadfastness, and sacrifice in faithful Arab souls, mobilize all good pan-Arab and Islamic energies, and achieve real cohesion to reverse the current facts over the heads of the conspirators in Washington, London, Paris, and Tel Aviv.

The opening session was attended by Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister; Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, deputy official in charge of the Ba'th Party Foreign Relations Bureau; the heads of professional and popular organizations and unions; and the Palestinian ambassador to Baghdad.

In light of political and practical priorities, the participants will discuss documents pertaining to the APFC's bylaws, the 1992 working program, information plans, an Arab-Islamic plan to support the Iraqi people's steadfastness, and factual reports. It will also hold political meetings to consider the heroic stand of the zealous Iraqis in confronting the series of conspiracies and to follow up on escalating the Palestinian intifadah.

Ramadan Calls For Steadfastness

JN2504195092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1802 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council, has emphasized that the duty of the Arab popular forces is to serve Arab causes and promote the nation's steadfastness in the face of evil imperialist-Zionist designs.

Addressing the second session of the first meeting of the General Secretariat of the APFC, he said that the goals and phases of conspiracy concocted by the Arab nation's enemies and by agents and traitors are obvious and multifaceted. This, he said, requires that the APFC's General Secretariat be more zealous and organize popular struggle to defend Arab causes. [passage omitted]

Ramadan added that the ongoing rebuilding of what was destroyed by the forces of evil will erode the blockade, emphasizing that the blockade of Iraq is not only economic in nature but also a continued aggression and another chapter of conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Ramadan also said that the targeting of leader President Saddam Husayn and Iraq's leadership and people by the forces of evil is an act of aggression against the Arab awakening, the bases of which were laid down by leader President Saddam Husayn. He affirmed that these forces will fail to achieve their evil plans and that the Arab awakening, with Iraq as its basis, will continue and expand. [passage omitted]

The session, which was attended by Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party and the official in charge of the Ba'th Party Foreign Relations Bureau, discussed the General Secretariat's mode of action this year, as well as drawing up a specific plan to express solidarity with Iraq by organizing Arab popular weeks, in coordination with the General Secretariat's committees in Arab countries, in an effort by the Arab popular forces to lift the unjust economic blockade imposed on the people of Iraq.

Official Scores Saudi Anti-Yemen Plans

JN2604181392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the command's Foreign Relations Bureau, has affirmed that the epic of the Mother of Battles led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is the nation's battle and a manifestation of nationalist, pan-Arab, Islamic, and humanitarian sentiments unleashed in the face of the evil, hegemonic, imperialist, and Zionist-Atlantic powers which covet the resources of world peoples.

During a meeting held today with a delegation of Yemeni parties and popular forces which is taking part in meetings of the first meeting of the General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference, Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur added: We are sure that the anti-Yemen Saudi conspiracies, which are aimed at carrying out the schemes of Saudi Arabia's masters, will be thwarted thanks to the unity and cohesion of fraternal Yemen—its president, leadership, people, and political forces and parties.

The members of the fraternal Yemeni delegation expressed their great pride in the epic of the Mother of Battles waged by the glorious Iraqis under the banner of God is great. They affirmed that national unity in Yemen and the Yemeni popular forces will thwart all of the enemies' schemes, and they emphasized their continued support for Iraq's jihad march to rebuild what the evil aggressors destroyed.

The meeting emphasized the importance of bolstering militant ties between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and political forces in fraternal Yemen to continue the pan-Arab struggle against the Arab nation's enemies.

Ba'th Official on Support for Libya

JN2704142892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the official in charge of the party's Foreign Relations Bureau, has emphasized that Iraq supports Libya in its confrontation of the blockade imposed on it by the enemies of the nation: the imperialists, Zionists, and traitors.

Speaking during a meeting today with a delegation of the Libyan General People's Congress taking part in the first meeting of the Arab Popular Forces conference, he said that the historic Mother of Battles led by President Saddam Husayn embodied the ability to hold fast and emerge victorious. It also underscored the enemy's defeat in the face of the heroic Iraqi confrontation of the aggression and the reconstruction of what the villains destroyed.

The Libyan delegation were proud of the achievements of the valiant Iraqi people in their campaign of reconstruction. It noted that the accelerating determination of the Iraqis has shocked the enemy and ignited their rancor, which led them to continue the unjust blockade. The delegation pointed out that Iraq's model will be a source of power and steadfastness for the Arab masses.

During the meeting ways to strengthen relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Libyan General People's Congress were discussed.

Conference Issues Final Statement

JN2804091192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)—Participants in the first meeting of the General Secretariat of the Arab Popular

Forces Conference have saluted and expressed pride in the jihad of Iraq's people and President Saddam Husayn and their confrontation of the 30-state aggression during the great historic epic of the Mother of Battles.

In the final statement that they issued during the final session today in the presence of Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the official in charge of the party's Foreign Relations Bureau, they emphasized that the continuation of the unjust economic blockade on Iraq imposes a great militant responsibility on the Arab nation, particularly on political parties, trade unions, democratic organizations, and national figures, to carry out the largest possible action to call for lifting the blockade and exerting the necessary pressure to force Arab governments to break this blockade.

The statement stresses that despite the dangers it is being exposed to and the challenges it is facing, the Arab nation is still capable of appropriately confronting any conspiratorial aggression against its existence, dignity, and rights.

The statement notes that the challenges that the Libyan Arab people are currently facing at this stage constitute the second stage in the series of acts of aggression against the Arab nation to undermine its will and independence. [passage omitted]

The statement adds: The so-called Arab order or Arab League was born carrying its own congenital defects and clearly reflecting all the deviations and wrongdoings of the regimes which are parties to this order. The epic of the Mother of Battles has exposed the false and fragile nature of the Arab order, in which the personal rancor of the rulers and governments overwhelmed responsibility and destiny, and the alleged international legitimacy replaced the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact, and in which rulers and governments joined the aggression and the aggressors instead of rising up to express solidarity with the sons of their nation and their partners in destiny, and instead of defending the homeland, the nation, and destiny.

The stand adopted by Arab League members and some Arab rulers and governments toward the aggression against Iraq and the imposition of the blockade constitutes a serious precedent in any confrontation between the Arab nation and its enemies. Perhaps it is one of the requirements of a true understanding of responsibility to note that what the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is being exposed to these days, in terms of aggression against its sovereignty and the blockade and embargo imposed on it, proves the fiasco of the Arab order. This necessitates a serious rethinking of the need for the existence of the Arab League, or of the need to redress its charter and all the gaps that have been exposed by the Arab League's performance of its duties toward the Arab world, and consequently the disorder it created in the Arab world's dealing with the international community. [passage omitted]

The statement denounces the crime of the continued blockade against Iraq, as well as the two unjust resolutions, 706 and 712, on pumping Iraqi oil, because they imply impossible provisions and an impractical mechanism for oil sales, which will not guarantee food or medicine; because they include restrictions; and because they impose an international trusteeship in order to harm Iraq's national sovereignty as a free, independent state.

It says that the real reasons and aims of the imposition of the blockade are being exposed day by day, namely the continuation of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression and its evil goals being implemented against Iraq in coordination with the regimes in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf. [passage omitted]

The statement also denounces attempts by the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggressors to interfere in Iraq's affairs and to encroach on its sovereignty by using U.S. U-2 aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace for provocation and espionage purposes. This proves the Bush administration's repeated attempts to exploit and use the Security Council's resolutions to serve its aggressive policy.

It emphasizes that the hostile policy which the United States is pursuing through the inspection teams is provocative and opportunist because it directs them politically and bugs them with spies to carry out missions which are not objective, to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs, to provoke it, and ro harm its sovereignty and independence, after it has given biased interpretations of the Security Council's resolutions and imposed them on Iraq to destroy its defensive, scientific, and technical capabilities.

The statement says: In light of what has been said, the conference declares the following:

1. The conferees hail with pride Iraq's people and its symbolic leader mujahid Saddam Husayn for their lofty stand, their pride, and their legendary steadfastness in the great Mother of Battles against the masses of tyranny and aggression. They also hail the firm position and the firm, principled adherence to national unity—the land and people—to national independence, to sovereignty, and to the pan-Arab and humanitarian options.
2. The General Secretariat greets and appreciates Iraq's people, who are waging the construction campaign and who have rebuilt more than two-thirds of what was destroyed by the tyrannical 30-state aggression. It also emphasizes that the continuation of the aggression is targeting the spirit of jihad and the awakening of the new Iraqi individual.
3. The conferees reiterate that the continuation of the comprehensive, unjust blockade against Iraq makes it incumbent on all honorable and good people throughout the world to work seriously to lift the inhuman blockade against 18 million Iraqis immediately and without any preconditions.

The conferees call on political parties, trade unions, democratic institutions, and national figures to carry out the broadest activities to lift the siege and to form the

necessary pressure groups to force the Arab countries to break the siege. [passage omitted]

4. The conferees denounce the recent instance of Iranian aerial aggression against Iraq and recall the discussions which took place at the third Arab Popular Forces conference in Baghdad late last year about the Tehran rulers' treacherous and suspect role. The conferees also recall the conference's final statement condemning the Iranian regime for its hostility toward Iraqi national unity and for its violation of the principles of Islam, the relations of good neighborliness, and mutual respect for regional and national security during the chapter of treason, which was an extension of the 30-state aggression. [passage omitted]

The conferees discussed the scheme currently under way to entrench the political, military, and economic influence of the forces of aggression in the region through agreements signed with Washington, London, and Paris, agreements for protecting the agent rulers, restoring the era of the mandates and the protectorates which has been terminated by the Arab national strugglers through sacrifices that were baptized by the pure blood of the strugglers until evacuation, independence, and sovereignty had been attained.

With this premise, the conferees call on the Arab people and their vanguards to wage decisive battles against the foreign presence and all its manifestations in the region, including the abrogation of the agreements that were signed in this respect.

The conferees also affirm that the Palestinian cause is the crux of the struggle and the essence of the conflict which our Arab nation is waging against Zionism and imperialism. [passage omitted]

The General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference reiterates its commitment to supporting the Palestinian Arab people and the PLO, their legitimate and sole representative, in their struggle to attain their firm objectives, including the right to repatriation, and the establishment of the independent national state on their national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

In its final statement the conference expresses solidarity with Libya, which is being subjected to unjust aggression against its existence and political independence.

The conferees support the civilized and humane method with which the Libyan authorities have tackled this issue, and they call on the Arab governments and masses to express effective solidarity with the Libyan Arab people and to support them in their just and legitimate confrontation with the forces of evil and aggression and their policies, and not to remain content to merely issue statements but rather to carry out practical measures.

The conferees also condemn the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council to serve the scheme of aggression by the United States and its allies against Libya. They also call on the Arab governments and masses and all the progressive forces in the world to view these resolutions as null and void and consequently to refuse to abide by them. [passage omitted]

Further on Clashes in Southern Marshlands

SAIRI Details Fighting

NC2604181692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Reports by the Iraqi opposition in the south indicate that the regime's troops are continuing their large-scale attacks against the opposition's strongholds and refugee shelters in the southern marshlands region.

The Information Center of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has reported that several divisions and brigades from the Republican Guard and the regime's troops are taking part in this attack, which is targeting the marshes in the three southern governorates of al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-'Amarah.

In an urgent press release the center pointed out that the axis of the attack against the Hawr al-Hammar region extends from (al-'Abrah) to (al-Abyad) and that the region's inhabitants as well as opposition members confronted the attacking forces, killing or wounding hundreds of troops and destroying dozens of vehicles. According to the center the fighting is now taking place around al-Masabb. The press release added that units from the 82d Brigade are launching an attack against Hawr al-Hammar, in al-Nasiriyah Governorate. The popular forces who confronted the attack destroyed a number of tanks and armored vehicles and killed or wounded dozens of the regime's troops.

According to the press release units from the 11th and 12th Divisions, the 1st Mechanized Division, and the 11th, 12th, and 21st Republican Brigades, backed by military helicopters, are attacking the marshlands in al-'Amarah Governorate. According to the same information the number of civilians killed or wounded from among the marshland inhabitants is constantly on the rise as a result of the artillery and aircraft bombardment.

It should be recalled that the outcast regime's troops began the attack on Tuesday. It is their largest attack in this region since last March. Tens of thousands of civilians who were expelled by the regime's troops last year are living in the marshlands. A few thousand Iraqi opposition gunmen are also present in the region.

It was announced in Tehran that a meeting was held between Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani and Islamic Action Organization leader Taqiy al-Mudarrisi to unify efforts to overthrow Saddam Husayn's regime.

'Barbaric' Regime Attacks Continue

NC2704153892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Aircraft of the outcast tyrant have strafed that (al-Basitin) and (al-Huzah) Marshes. Opposition sources have reported that a number of explosions resulted from the air bombardment. The tyrant's forces are continuing their barbaric attacks against refugees in the southern marshes.

The sources added that a number of divisions and brigades from the tyrant's forces are taking part in the attack targeting the three southern governorates of al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-'Amarah. They said that the axis of attack in (Ghawr al-Ahmar) in al-Basrah extended from the al-'Abrah area to the al-'Ubayyid area and that the inhabitants and resistance fighters there confronted the outcast regime's forces, killed and wounded hundreds of them, and destroyed dozens of vehicles. Battles are raging now in the (al-Masab) area.

The sources confirmed that the tyrant's forces, backed with military helicopters, are attacking the marshes of al-'Amarah Governorate and that the number of civilians killed or wounded there is constantly increasing as a result of artillery and air bombardment.

Tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime has tried to deny its attack on the marshes following the increased international protest, but reports confirm that the attacks are continuing.

Military Actions Continue in Kurdish North

Peshmerga Centers Shelled 23 Apr

NC2404191592 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] At 0900 and 1115 on 23 April the dictatorial forces shelled peshmerga centers in (Dawudah) with heavy-caliber artillery and rocket launchers. The forces also used artillery to shell the villages of Dalo, Qurah Ku, and (Rahimaquta) in the (Shuwan) area, Karkuk Governorate.

Opposition Shells Armed Forces

NC2504183192 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The dictatorial forces continued to shell peshmerga positions around Nojol throughout the day yesterday. In reply to this attack, the artillery of the 108th Battalion of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the artillery of the 4th Battalion of the Iraqi Communist Party shelled the enemy's assembly points and positions in (Tur Kurmatu) for one hour. The dictatorial forces' losses are not known.

On the morning of 23 April a mine exploded under a military vehicle that was on a reconnaissance mission in the Nojol area. The blast destroyed the vehicle and killed three soldiers.

Opposition Forces Regime Retreat

NC2604174392 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] On 25 April the dictatorial forces attacked the villages of (Khalo Baziani) and (Hunistan) in the Qarah Hasan area. The 111th Battalion of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and a group of citizens confronted the enemy's forces and forced them to retreat. They left behind three dead on the battlefield.

After they retreated the dictatorial forces shelled the area.

Kurdish Leader Fears PKK Operations in North

NC2604173992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Sami Ramadan, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in Zakho, told REUTER yesterday that his party believes that the authorities of the ostracized outcast regime may try to carry out sabotage operations using Turkey's Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] members. He added that there are several PKK members in the region and that they depend on Baghdad for supplies and information. Ramadan added that the city of Zakho could be subjected to infiltration and sabotage operations because of its location in northern Iraq near where Turkey, Iraq, and Syria meet.

Ramadan noted that the PKK has bases near Zakho and that it is known that some of its leaders hold meetings with and enjoy the support of the regime's authorities. The Kurdistan Front has recently decided to evacuate PKK fighters from their mountainous shelters inside Iraq.

Paper Accuses Iran of 'Expansionist' Greed

JN2504124292 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad Apr. 25, INA—AL-QADISIYAH newspaper scoffed at the silence maintained by the Arab Gulf rulers over Iran's occupation of the Arab Gulf island of Abu-Musa' and declaring it as part of Iran.

A paper article published here today said this occupation mirrors the expansionist greeds of the Iranian regime and perpetuating aggression against the Arabs in addition to its being an attempt by Tehran to turn into a regional force spreading its influence and hegemony over the Arab Gulf region.

The Iraqi paper said that the Iranian regime exploits the results of the U.S. led 30-states aggression on Iraq and the embargo imposed on its people and also the treason by some Arab regimes to [word indistinct] through its expansionist designs.

AL-QADISIYAH added that Iraq was aware of the false slogans and dangers of the new international order which is mainly utilized against the Arab nation.

It pointed out that Iraq is fully convinced that the Iranian regime was part of the new Zionist, Atlantic and American order which is after liquidating the freedom of Arabs, plundering their wealth and occupying their land.

Justice Minister Returns From Cairo Conference

JN2504154392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—Justice Minister Shabib al-Maliki returned to Baghdad today after attending the second [as received] session of the Arab Justice Ministers Council which ended in Cairo last Thursday.

Justice Minister Shabib al-Maliki told INA that Iraq's election to the Arab Interior Ministers Council Executive Bureau, which comprises five countries, is a decisive reply to the tendentious stands of the representatives of the regime imposed on Kuwait, who tried to distort Iraq's role in the Council.

Al-Maliki added that Iraq's election is in appreciation for its pan-Arab role and its activities during the meetings of Arab justice ministers, and for its serious contribution to many draft laws regarding the unification of Arab legislation.

Al-Maliki stated that one of the Council's most important decisions was to reject the proposal by the representative of the regime imposed on Kuwait to discuss the issue of so-called Kuwaiti prisoners. He added that the Iraqi delegation rebutted the claims put forth by the representatives of the Kuwaiti regime, affirming that the discussion of such an issue falls within the Zionist-U.S. campaign against Iraq to justify the unjust siege of our militant people. He said that the Iraqi delegation affirmed that under Saddam Husayn's leadership Iraq will continue to abide by its pan-Arab principles and to defend the interests of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Transportation Minister Returns From Jordan Talks

JN2504093992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0832 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini, Iraqi minister of transportion and communications, returned to Baghdad last night after concluding a four-day visit to fraternal Jordan.

During the visit the minister of transportation and communications held talks with Jordanian officials on ways to develop and broaden the horizons of cooperation between our two fraternal countries in the areas of transportation and communications.

Assembly Approves Marshland Housing Study

JN2604135392 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 26, INA—The National Assembly approved during a session on Saturday chaired by Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih a study on the housing of people who are leaving the marshes to other parts of the country.

The study envisaged the establishment by the government of residential complexes which are provided free for those who leave the marshes. The study said these complexes should have all basic facilities and services including work opportunities in agriculture livestock breeding, fishing and handicrafts. Each family is to be given a monthly salary of 150 dinars as of the start of living in the new site.

Military Industry To Produce 2,000 Tractors

JN2804102992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0713 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Apr (INA)—Iraq has announced that this year it will produce 2,000 al-Nida' tractors, the parts of which were completely manufactured by Iraqi hands.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the Republic and the official in charge of the Military Industrialization Organization, said: This is the first time that Iraq has managed to produce not only the engine of an agricultural tractor but also to build a tractor and all of its parts, with no exceptions. He added that this is the contribution of the Military Industrialization Organization to increase agricultural production under the unjust blockade. He affirmed that this achievement will effect a big change in Iraqi industry because it opens broad horizons for developing our dear homeland as well as for developing both agriculture and industry.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH and published today, Fawzi 'Imran, director general of the State Enterprise for Mechanical Industries, said: Thanks to the convergence of the efforts made by the mujahidin of its branches, the Military Industrialization Organization was able to manufacture 100 percent of the al-Nida' tractor. He added that the contribution of the State Enterprise for Mechanical Industries to this project was 64.4 percent, while a 35.6-percent contribution came from the remaining enterprises.

'Imran announced that approximately 2,000 tractors will be produced this year, 6,000 next year, and 10,000-12,000 will be produced in subsequent years. This will meet the country's needs. He added that the enterprise's future plans include manufacturing a heavy-duty 160-horsepower tractor in addition to wheat, barley, and rice harvesters.

Ministry Exempts Some Foods From Import Duties

JN2504161492 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Apr 92 p 1

[By Salah al-'Abid]

[Text] Baghdad—The Ministry of Trade has decided to exempt potatoes, onions, meat, eggs, and chicken from import licenses, customs duties, the national defense tax, and any other import duties.

A source in the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce has said that this measure is aimed at allowing Iraqi merchants to supply Iraqi markets with these products at suitable prices that will not burden citizens.

'Crisis' Over Participation in Multilateral Talks

EC Finds Levi Meeting 'Inconvenient'

TA2704185792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] A crisis is looming over the multilateral talks which are scheduled to begin in two weeks in five international capitals. Today, the United States and the other host countries sent out the invitations to the various committees without holding any additional consultations with Israel.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik noted that earlier explanations, as well as the invitations themselves, imply that Israel will be forced to participate in several committees together with Palestinian representatives who are not residents of the territories. Israel has already declared that in such an event, it would boycott the talks.

As for the EC's inclusion in the committee on arms control and regional security, which Israel opposes, the invitation only stated that the matter was still under discussion.

Foreign Minister David Levi was supposed to fly from the United States to Portugal at the end of the week to meet the EC troika of foreign ministers in an attempt to reach a compromise on this issue. Our correspondent has learned that the EC ministers said that the date was inconvenient. Now, it is unclear whether the meeting will take place at all.

Withdrawal From Talks Considered

TA2804051892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Israel is considering pulling out completely from the multilateral talks due to take place in several world capitals in May in light of the possibility that Washington will agree to include Palestinians from outside the territories in the discussions. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that contacts with the United States on the issue are continuing.

UN Observer Status Accepted

TA2804121992 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Apr 92 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Washington correspondent Drora Perl]

[Excerpt] Israel has decided to accept the participation of representatives from UN agencies in the multilateral talks. The UN officials will have observer status. Israel has thus lifted one of the three major obstacles to the convening of the multilateral talks, the invitations to which have already been sent.

Political sources in Jerusalem, however, nevertheless asserted yesterday evening that this "concession" would not help remove the main stumbling block to Israel's participation in two out of the five multilateral negotiation forums—the inclusion of representatives from the Palestinian diaspora. Therefore, Israel will apparently have no choice but to boycott the talks.

On the other hand, Jerusalem officials still hope to reach a compromise on another disputed issue: the EC's participation in the committee on arms control.

Israel has so far been opposed to any UN role in the multilateral negotiations, while UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali has demanded the full participation of both the UN's special agencies and of the international body itself. Following U.S. mediation efforts, Israel has now agreed to allot observer status to representatives of the special agencies. It remains unclear, however, whether this compromise will be acceptable to the secretary general. [passage omitted]

Shamir Pleased With Syrian Concession to Jews

TA2704194592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening expressed satisfaction with the U.S. Administration's announcement that it had received official confirmation from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad of reports that the restrictions on Syrian Jews would be lifted. I am pleased with the progress made on the easing of the restrictions placed on our Syrian brothers and share in their joy, the prime minister said. Mr. Shamir added that he hoped that this process would continue and that Syrian Jews would be permitted to emigrate in the near future. [passage omitted]

Cairo Official Suggests Ovitz-Detainees Swap

TA2604134592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Apr 92 p A5

[Report by Gabi Zohar]

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's adviser, has said that Egypt wants to resolve the affair of David Ovitz and the other detained Israelis to make progress in the peace process and to keep it from harming Israeli-Egyptian relations.

According to al-Baz, the Ovitz affair can be resolved if a solution is found to the detention in Israel of several Egyptians who have not been tried. The presidential adviser met with a delegation of Israeli Arabs who visited Cairo last week as guests of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and returned home Thursday night.

Al-Baz told his guests from Israel that the political echelon in Egypt does not want to intervene in the court's decisions but, if Israel is prepared to discuss the freeing of the detained Egyptians, then the Egyptian political echelon will consider intervening in the Ovitz affair.

Arab Israeli Poet Sentenced for Content of Song

TA2704134592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 92 p A4

[Report by Mikha'el Hendelschlatz]

[Excerpt] The 'Akko Magistrate's Court yesterday sentenced poet Shawfiq Habib, a 51-year-old resident of Dayr Hanna, to an eight-month conditional sentence for a probation period of three years and a fine of NIS [new Israeli shekels] 7500. Habib was convicted of violating Clause 4 (A) of the 1949 Antiterror Act, which bans the publication of statements praising, supporting, or encouraging any acts of violence which could lead to a person's injury or death. Writer Emil Habibi testified on behalf of the accused.

Shawfiq Habib described the sentence as harsh and said it would make it difficult for him and any other poet in Israel to write songs. Attorney Avigdor Feldman, Habib's counsel, said that this was the first time in Israel's history that a poet was put on trial for the content of his songs. Feldman said that he would appeal the conviction to the Municipal Court.

Habib was brought to trial because of poems he published in February 1990 in a volume entitled "Back to the Future." Among other issues, the book also touches on the intifadah. The book, 350 copies of which were printed at the poet's own expense, was confiscated from one of his friends during a routine check at a roadblock, and Habib was subsequently put on trial. Appeals to the attorney general sent by writers and poets, including 'Amos 'Oz, A.B. Yehoshu'a, and Emil Habibi, to stay the proceedings, were rejected.

Last month, Judge Tzahor ruled that in publishing the poems the defendant had praised, encouraged, and expressed support for acts of violence and their perpetrators. The message Habib sought to express against the background of the intifadah, the judge wrote, "did not constitute literary or artistic work. The defendant's actions entail greater danger than those of an outright inciter. While the inciter can be simply labeled as such, the danger inherent in publishing words of encouragement and praise for murderous violence behind the guise of poetry, is reminiscent of a wolf in sheep's clothing," the judge wrote. [passage omitted]

Elderly Palestinian Woman's Death Investigated

TA2704145892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 92 p A7

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Military sources yesterday reported that the body of 70-year-old 'Abd-al-Rahman Mahmud, a resident of 'Azzun in the Tulkarm District, was discovered at approximately 1800. [passage omitted] Palestinian sources reported that four residents were injured in Rafah and Khan Yunus. [passage omitted]

Sources at the Army's Southern Command yesterday expressed sorrow over the death of Fatma al-Hawaja, who died on Saturday during a clash between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and local residents in Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. [passage omitted]

A HA'ARETZ investigation revealed that contrary to the IDF announcement on Saturday, the woman was 85 years old. It also transpired that during the riot in al-Shaykh Radwan, IDF soldiers threw some 40 gas canisters into the neighborhood's alleyways. The IDF sought to stress that no canister was hurled into the old woman's home. Palestinian sources nevertheless insisted that the a number of gas canisters were thrown into the house. [passage omitted]

[Writing on page 2 of 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 27 April, Moti Bassok adds: "Over the past two weeks, 39 wanted men, some very prominent, have been captured in the West Bank, security elements reported to the cabinet yesterday.

["The elements also stated that during the same period, 21 wanted men were captured in the Gaza Strip."]

Government Investing in 'Intifadah-Bypass' Roads

TA2704115192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Apr 92 p 9

[Excerpt] Over 250 km of Israel's particularly unsafe roads do not receive proper maintenance because of budget shortages, according to Road Safety Administration data. Conversely, the Construction and Housing Ministry's "Great Roads Plan" envisages the construction of 400 km of roads in Judaea and Samaria, according to the Meretz movement.

The Judaea and Samaria roads construction costs—based on the price of $1 million per kilometer—run about $400 million.

The detailed proposal for 1992 (which is part of the "Great Roads Plan") includes the construction of roads bypassing Halhul and Hebron, as well as Ramallah and Nabulus, among other items. Another part of the plan envisages expanding the eastern section of the trans-Samaria highway to two lanes.

Two roads—the Gilo-'Etzyon Bloc road, in which some 70 million shekels were invested, and the Bet Horon bypass road—were constructed in the framework of this plan.

Meretz emphasizes that the government has invested special efforts in the construction of "intifadah-bypass roads," which are designed to meet the needs of the Jewish population, bypass Arab locations, and create close links between settlements and the nearest locations inside the Green Line.

"These roads are built to give users the illusion of not driving through Arab-populated areas," Meretz spokesmen said. [passage omitted]

[An unattributed report on page 8 of the same issue of YEDI'OT AHARONOT says that Tourism Minister Gid'on Pat, who is in charge of the Likud election campaign's minorities section, has refuted "Labor allegations that the government is neglecting the issue of roads in Israel and is investing most of the budget in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza." The report adds that Pat claims that "only 6.3 percent of the total 1990-1991 investment in Israel's roads was invested in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, while the investment in road construction in the territories in 1992 will stand at 8.8 percent of the total investment inside the Green Line."]

Defense Minister Visits Finland

WA2804082692

For reportage on the visit by Defense Minister Moshe Arens to Finland, including reports on his talks with Finnish Defense Minister Elisabeth Rehn and Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen, please see the Finland subsection of the Nordic countries section of the 27 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Bin-Shakir Meets With PLO Delegation

JN2504145592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] At noon today, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received a PLO delegation in his office at the Prime Ministry. The team comprised Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Mahmud 'Abbas, Sulayman al-Najjab, and Hakam Bal'awi. They discussed the latest developments of the Palestine question and the importance of intensive, serious Arab work to restore legitimate Palestinian rights.

Proceeding from this, it was agreed that the two sides take advantage of the Arab League Council meeting in Cairo to hold an intensive dialogue with all Arab countries, with a view toward enhancing common action as an effective pressure tool to achieve the best results from the peace process and the upcoming round of peace talks in Washington.

Foreign Minister: Progress Toward Peace 'Not Bad'

NC2604000392 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir by unidentified MBC correspondent in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Jabir] As for the evaluation of the peace process, the first point that should be mentioned here is that the peace process has entered its fifth or sixth month. Though this conflict is an age-old one—on the doctrinal level, it goes back at least 100 years, if not more—some might feel that there is a delay. Of course, every Arab and Muslim and I hope that things will be solved within weeks or even days. But considering the difficulty of the situation and the bitterness and complexity of the conflict, I believe that things so far are not bad. We have achieved many gains. We have proven the existence of the Palestinians for the first time. Former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir used to say that there is no such thing as a Palestinian. Who are the Palestinians? she used to say.

On the other hand, there are many things we cannot see as gains. For example, the Israelis have not withdrawn yet; settlements have not stopped yet. All this is true, but are we heading in that direction? We believe that if our people show greater patience with us, we might realize some progress.

[Correspondent] Has Washington performed its role as a propelling force in the peace process? What is the role required from the U.S. Administration in the coming stage?

[Abu-Jabir] They are serious, but we do not know to what extent and how it will develop. We hope it will develop and increase because in the final analysis, the whole world cannot rest unless the Palestinian people rest. Neither can the region rest, unless the Middle East region calms down, due to its strategic importance, the presence of oil, Arab resources, and so on. Therefore, we believe that the world at large—and the world has now become unipolar—the world at large is trying to join the peace process. We see China and India trying to join the peace process. Most other countries are also doing the same because everyone believes that if the situation in this region, the last region in the world that still suffers insecurity, does not stabilize, there will be no security or stability on the international level.

Editorial Views Jordanian-Palestinian Coordination

JN2604091092 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Apr 92 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Meeting on the Basis of Understanding"]

[Text] The current Jordanian-Palestinian meetings and consultations are particularly important in view of the fact that they fall within the context of the ongoing preparations by all concerned parties on the eve of the fifth round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks, due to open tomorrow in Washington.

These Jordanian-Palestinian meetings are also important as they are held on the eve of the Arab League Council's meeting in Cairo where the peace issue will be one of the most prominent subjects on the agenda. The meeting will provide a suitable opportunity to assess the Arab stand toward the peace process. It will also be an occasion to hold an intensive Arab dialogue to bring about joint Arab support, which constitutes one of the most important tools of pressure available to achieve the objectives desired from the current peace process.

These ceaseless meetings and consultations between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders will also give a good contribution to the efforts aimed at finding suitable ground to ensure the desired success of the four-party meeting of the Arab parties participating in the Washington bilateral talks. The foreign ministers of the four states decided in their first quadripartite meeting in Beirut to meet again in Amman.

There is no doubt that these meetings, which are being constantly held in an atmosphere of understanding and coordination and in a spirit of genuine fraternity, will significantly contribute to strengthening the spirit of dialogue and frankness on the Arab side. They will also contribute to strengthening the ties of joint coordination among the Arab parties directly involved in the bilateral talks and even boost such coordination to a better level in a phase which requires openness, understanding, exchanging viewpoints and advice, and reinforcing the spirit of cooperation among the Arab parties, particularly the Jordanian and Palestinian parties.

Consequently, the bilateral talks, the fourth round of which is due to open in Washington tomorrow, as well as the multilateral working teams, schedule to meet alternately in Europe, Asia, and the United States, provide an opportunity which should not be missed by the Arab side, not only to improve coordination among Arab stands, assessments, views, and interpretations, but also to provide an effective action mechanism, in which all Arab political resources can be included in order to obtain the best results possible within the framework of the current peace process.

Buwayz—'Reservations' on 'Timing' of Multilaterals

NC2804111292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Lebanon, which rejects the idea of participating in next month's multilateral negotiations, received an invitation to these talks yesterday from U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker.

After meeting with the U.S. envoy, Foreign Minister Buwayz said the reason we met was so the ambassador could brief us on the multilateral negotiations and the meetings that will be held in Washington on 11-14 May to discuss the arms issue, the meetings in Brussels on 11-12 May to discuss economic affairs; the meeting in Vienna on 13-14 May to discuss the water issue, the meeting in Ottawa on 13-17 May to discuss the refugee issue, and the meetings in Tokyo on 18-19 May to discuss the environment.

Minister Buwayz said: We reiterated our reservations about the timing of these talks.

Hizballah Radio on 'False' U.S. 'Concern'

NC2704105192 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Station commentary: "U.S. Concern"]

[Text] Some Lebanese newspapers yesterday headlined stories on the U.S. concern about a possible Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. This concern is false and the reports about it have been carefully timed to coincide with U.S. Ambassador Crocker's activities and advice, which he has persistently given to President al-Hirawi, Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry officials, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, the cabinet, and the Army command. Most of this advice focuses on one issue, toward which Crocker has never concealed his opposition or resentment; the presence of the Islamic Resistance in southern Lebanon.

This presence of the resistance was criticized once because it reportedly violated the spirit of al-Ta'if. It was criticized later because it reportedly violated the sectarian balance in the formal disarming of the militias. Crocker broached this issue when he asked the government to disarm the resistance as a quid pro quo for allowing the Lebanese Army to deploy in Jazzin. Because all these mischievous attempts and temptations have failed, Crocker is trying another avenue; that is, making tacit threats of possible Israeli invasions and leaking messages through the media and security agencies to officials under the pretext of being concerned about Lebanon.

The best proof that the U.S. concern about a Zionist invasion is false and has evil designs is that the press reports the U.S. State Department leaked were made by unidentified officials and through clandestine reports. Moreover, these reports said the threats could be the pretext for possible Israeli retaliation for the bombing of the embassy in Argentina. This pretext, however, has nothing to do with Lebanon. If we add to these signs the time factor, we realize the extent of the U.S. mischief and hostility towards the oppressed Lebanese people. The Lebanese people have been suffering since the inception of the racist Zionist entity on the Palestine soil and on the Lebanese southern borders.

Everyone knows that the United States is trying to blackmail the Syrians in Lebanon and is trying to make the Lebanese card, the strongest one in Syria's hand, the weakest. In the past few days, the United States has pressured the government to reshuffle the Karami-led cabinet and bring to power one more pliable and loyal to the Saudi-U.S. line in Lebanon. Everyone knows that pressure is being applies on the government to form a new tripartite structure to run Lebanon so that al-Hirawi can complete his term relying on Saudi Arabia for funds and on a well-known specialist for security. We thus see that the reports on U.S. concern about a possible Israeli invasion were fabricated and are intended to increase the psychological pressure on government leaders, escalate the economic pressure, and bring about the collapse of the currency.

After a 17-year civil war, this form of psychological and economic war is the dirtiest and ugliest of all U.S. wars because it targets the people's food, daily life, their children's schools and medicine. It seems that the U.S.-Saudi-Maronite wager, that has recruited most local media and labor and social organizations, thinks that the social pressure will serve their goals. However, the reverse is true. Should a social explosion occur, it would target first and foremost the government and the parties behind it. Should an armed revolution break out, it would destroy those plotting to disarm the resistance. A surprise development that the United State may be expecting would only involve certain misled figures, who are unaware of their real size and immunity.

It might be more useful and worthwhile for the current regime to cooperate with key and effective personalities who formed the 30- member cabinet in line with the al-Ta'if accord to solve the social, economic, and security problems as a prelude to building a sound and healthy Lebanon. It is almost certain that implementing the new Lebanese constitution represented by the al-Ta'if accord can only be done by the current government team and in full cooperation with Syria. Otherwise there would be only two options: New civil war or total destruction of the Lebanese structure. Thank God we are in a position to concern the United States, leader of arrogance in the world and the cause of disasters, civil wars, and fragmentation of countries.

SLA's Lahd Says 13 Female Prisoners Held in al-Khiyam

NC2604090492 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0830 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] AFP has cited South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander Staff Major General Antoine Lahd as saying that there are 13 female prisoners held in al-Khiyam Prison, not 16 as has been declared by [Amal Movement leader] Minister Nabih Birri.

In his statement to AFP, Maj. Gen. Lahd said: Suha Bisharah is being held because she tried to kill me and the other prisoners are being held for security reasons. He said that the female prisoners are detained in a special section guarded by three elderly men.

Antiaircraft Fire Targets Israeli Mock Raids

NC2704131092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Israeli warplanes overflew Lebanon and staged mock raids over Sidon and the camps this morning, breaking the sound barrier at approximately 1000.

Israeli drones overflew Sidon and the camps up to al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah at noon today. The Lebanese Army opened antiaircraft fire at the Israeli planes from its positions in al- Nabatiyah hills.

Israeli Planes Overfly Sidon

NC2804104692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Israeli military planes reconnoitered Sidon and its environs and flew at low-altitude over Iqlim al-Tuffah and al- Nabatiyah this morning, drawing antiaircraft fire from Lebanese Army positions.

Decision To Allow Jews To Leave 'Confirmed'

JN2804092092 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Israel and the United States have expressed satisfaction over the Syrian authorities' decision to allow Syrian Jews to have the freedom to travel and leave the country without restrictions.

The decision was confirmed by the spokeswoman of the Syrian delegation to the peace negotiations. She said that the Syrian decision was not made within the context of the peace process. If, however, this initiative is deemed by any of the cosponsors of the peace process as a helping factor to the peace process, then we are satisfied, Syrian spokeswoman Bushra Kanafani said.

U.S. Rejection of TIME Report on Pan Am Noted

JN2504182992 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The United States has affirmed that there is no truth whatsoever in the report appearing in the U.S. newsmagazine, TIME, accusing Syria of involvement in the Pan Am bombing over Scotland in 1988.

A Monte Carlo radio correspondent in Washington has reported that U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said that nothing has thus far happened to change the U.S. position on the intensive investigations held, and the conclusions drawn, regarding the bombing of the Pan Am plane. The U.S. State Department circulated comments made by the U.S. assistant attorney general on 20 April, in which he said that the affirmations made by TIME, claiming that the U.S. Department of Justice deliberately ignored significant evidence in its investigation of the Pan Am bombing, are incorrect. He added that the story published by TIME magazine is an attempt to put worn-out rumors and speculations into new molds.

'Radical Change' in U.S. Peace Policy Needed

JN2804082492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Apr 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Arab Land Will Remain for the Arabs," AL-BA'TH says: The fifth round of peace talks began yesterday amid an atmosphere lacking optimism and hope of achieving any progress. The four previous sessions proved futile as a result of Israel's intransigence and rejection of peace. This intransigence has not changed, rather it has escalated with the continuation of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria responded to the peace initiative because it seeks peace and is an advocate of peace. Syria also responded to the peace initiative because it was based on UN resolutions, whose implementation constitutes a positive approach toward achieving security and stability in the region. Those who work for other than this and who seek to bypass and ignore international legitimacy are living in a world of illusion and fantasy. This feeds their sick dreams, but will be to no avail. At the same time, it makes them blind to the fact reiterated by leader al-Asad who said: Arab land will remain only for the Arabs, and the occupation of the Arab territory and peace will never converge.

Commenting on the same topic, under the headline "The Criterion of Seriousness," AL-THAWRAH says: Prior to the fifth round of peace talks, Israel reiterated its intransigent positions vis-a-vis the peace process. These include continuing settlement activities on a large scale, rejecting withdrawal from the occupied territory, and disregarding the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights.

AL-THAWRAH continues: In the final analysis, the firm Israeli rejection of the prerequisites of peace and its implementation is aimed at undermining the peace process and torpedoing every opportunity to achieve just peace in the Middle East that is based on removing the Israeli occupation and returning land and rights to their legitimate owners.

AL-THAWRAH says: If international legitimacy and the U.S. Administration are really serious about achieving peace and paving the way for it, the only criterion of seriousness is to make a radical change in the mechanism of international and American dealing with the peace process. Such a change would make the international and American stand more effective by practicing all forms of political, diplomatic, and economic pressure on Israel. This stand would also reinforce international and American credibility and make Israel respond to peace prerequisites through full withdrawal and recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights.

Further on Visit of Armenian Delegation

Qaddurah Meets Parliamentarians

JN2604135192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 11115 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] At noon today, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah received the Armenian parliamentary deputies who are visiting Syria with President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. Qaddurah outlined Syria's democratic experience and parliamentary life and the legislative and monitoring roles of the People's Assembly. He also explained the functions of its permanent and provisional committees and the parties represented in the assembly. The sides discussed parliamentary relations between the People's Assembly and the Armenian parliament, and agreed on the need to develop and strengthen these ties. They underlined the friendly relations between the two peoples and countries, and discussed regional political developments and issues of mutual interest.

Ter-Petrosyan, Delegation Depart

JN2704183592 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and the delegation accompanying him left Aleppo at 1830 today following a three-day visit to Syria. During the visit he held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah headed those who saw him off at the airport. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Mojaddedi Leaves Peshawar, Takes Over in in Kabul

Mojaddedi Convoy Departs for Kabul

LD2704204292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] According to a BBC report, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the Mojahedin's Interim Council, left Peshawar today [27 April] for Kabul. When Mojaddedi's car, which was decorated with a new flag for Afghanistan, left the Afghan mojahedin residence in Peshawar along with a huge convoy for Kabul, accompanied by Pakistani police, Afghan mojahedin were standing on both sides of the road to welcome their jehad leaders.

According to a BBC radio reporter who is accompanying him in this trip, members of the Mojahedin Interim Council are included in this convoy.

Mojaddedi Hailed With Gunfire

BK2804072092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0710 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] KABUL, April 28 (AFP)—A huge convoy bringing Afghan transitional council leader Sebghatollah Mojaddedi from Pakistan was seen arriving here Tuesday. Mojaddedi's convoy arrived in the capital to volleys of welcoming gunfire.

He left Pakistan Monday for Kabul where he was to take a formal transfer of power in the name of a 51-member transitional council agreed by several resistance factions in Peshawar, northwest Pakistan, Friday.

Radio Kabul reported earlier that fighting in the capital between rival mojahedin factions following the fall of the Kabul government had ended. It said the war was over, but said there was still intermittent shooting. The broadcast urged government employees to return to work.

Mojaddedi Chairs First Jehad Council

LD2804112192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 0930 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The Islamic Jehad Council under the leadership of Esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the Jehad Council and head [rayes-e dawlat-e] of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] arrived in Kabul today.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that members of the Jehad Council of the ISA arrived at the beautiful historic city of Kabul at around 1100. The head of state was accompanied by a convoy of cars and mojahedin. At the time of the Jehad Council's arrival, headed by Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the Jehad Council and the ISA, thousands of noble and faithful Muslim people of Kabul city including men, women, youths, children, and Muslim strugglers of Afghanistan were standing on both sides of the streets in the city and throwing flowers and shouting God is great, while their eyes were full of tears of joy, welcomed the arrival of members of the ISA Jehad Council.

The BAKHTAR agency reporter adds that when Esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the Jehad Council and head of the ISA, arrived at his residence he was welcomed by Esteemed Dr.'Abdol Rahman, deputy of Showra-e Nezar; Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Mojaddedi; and Esteemed Sedeqollah.

Esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the Jehad Council and head of the ISA, took part in the first meeting of the Islamic Jehad Council of Afghanistan.

The meeting began with the recitation of verses from the holy Koran and then members of the Jehad Council heard a report from the Security Commission of Kabul city and began discussing the current situation in the country.

Esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, in reply to a question from the BAKHTAR correspondent, expressed his first feelings on arrival after more than a decade of refuge [as heard].

He said: My first feelings on arriving in Kabul, the ancient capital of our beloved homeland, resembles the feeling of a very sincere son which has returned to the bosom of his kind mother.

Esteemed Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, in answer to another question from the BAKHTAR correspondent, stated in his first message to the Afghan nation as head of the Jehad Council and head of the ISA:

First we should thank Almighty God that for the first time a truly Islamic state has been established in our beloved country. Now the time has come for all Afghans to (?take part) in the establishment of security and stability, the maintenance of national unity and solidarity of Afghans [words indistinct]. We are all Afghan and all (?sons) of our united homeland, Afghanistan. All of us should join hands in establishing security and stability all over our united country and act unitedly in defending the honor, dignity, and Islamic life of all citizens of the united Afghanistan.

The BAKHTAR correspondent writes that 20 members of the Jehad council are accompanying Esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the Jehad Council and head of the ISA. Other members of the Jehad council are due to arrive soon in Kabul.

Mojaddedi Assumes Interim Presidency

BK2804132592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1343 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul, April 28 (AFP)—Mojahedin leader Sebghatollah Mojaddedi assumed the interim presidency of Afghanistan Tuesday, declaring a general amnesty for

members of the outgoing Kabul regime and asking rebel commander Golboddin Hekmatyar to sue for peace.

The formal transfer of power took place at a ceremony in the Foreign Ministry.

Mojaddedi, 70, hinted the general amnesty did not apply to ousted Soviet-installed president Najibollah.

"Why are you so concerned about Najibollah," he told reporters at the end of the 90-minute ceremony.

He said the people of Afghanistan would decide what to do with Najibollah, who has been in hiding at a United Nations compound here since he was stripped of his power following an abortive attempt to flee Kabul.

Heavy exchanges of artillery fire around an embattled bridge in the south of the city continued during the ceremony punctuated by full-throated cries of "Allah-o-Akbar" (God is Great) by Mojaddedi followers.

Mojaddedi, who arrived in Kabul to a triumphant welcome by road from Pakistan, asked Hekmatyar to persuade his followers to lay down their weapons and leave the city.

"We hope he will come back (to peace)," he said of Hekmatyar, whom he described as "our brother."

Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami guerrillas have been battling fighters from commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's Jam'-yiat-e Eslami for control of Kabul following the fall of the Najibollah government for the past three days.

Reportage on Cease-Fire, Mojahedin Agreements

Cease-Fire Reportedly Takes Effect

BK2704153892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Fighting has ceased in Kabul and the opposing Afghan mojahedin groups have agreed to end hostilities immediately. The Afghan Mojahedin Council has entered into Afghanistan and is expected to reach capital Kabul any moment to assume power. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, who flew into Peshawar this morning, had discussion with Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and the Hezb-e Eslami leader, Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, through specially arranged wireless. Prince Turki al-Faysal of Saudi Arabia, who accompanied the prime minister from Islamabad, also joined in the discussions. As a result of these discussions, with the two commanders, which were followed by talks with the leaders of Afghan mojahedin in Peshawar, including Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, all mojahedin tanzimats [organizations] and groups agreed to bring all hostilities to an immediate end. A complete cease-fire has come into effect.

Pakistan Television Peshawar representative says the mojahedin leaders assured the prime minister that they desired nothing but only peace in Afghanistan so that the Afghans, who struggled for freedom of their homeland and sustained immesurable losses of life and property, could live a peaceful life. All factions of mojahedin, including his Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, which was represented by Engineer Qotboddin, attended the meeting. Eng. Qotboddin told the prime minister that a lot of disinformation was going on. The actual position was that his Hezb-e Eslami was not against the forces of mojahedin and now when the mojahedin are entering Kabul, there is no need to fight and obstruct their way. Eng. Qotboddin informed Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif that following his wireless contact with Golboddin Hekmatyar of Hezb-e Eslami, he has agreed to join in immediate cease-fire and end the hostilities in Afghanistan.

The prime minister appreciated the gesture of Commander Ahmad Mas'ud, Eng. Golboddin Hekmatyar and all other Afghan mojahedin leaders and commanders who assured respect for the appeal of their Pakistani brothers and thus prevented further loss of precious lives in Afghanistan. The prime minister congratulated the mojahedin leaders and commanders for demonstrating wisdom and foresight at critical stage of the struggle when there was a need to consolidate the gains of victory for the benefit of the Afghan people. The prime minister expressed great pain and anguish over the incidents of violence and occasional clashes that led to some casualties in Afghanistan. He expressed the confidence that the Afghan mojahedin commanders and leaders, who have now given a call for cease-fire would ensure that the guns are finally silenced. He prayed for complete peace in Afghanistan and assured the Afghan leaders of Pakistan's fullest cooperation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Prince Turki al-Faysal conveyed to the Afghan leaders the greeting of King Fahd on their great victory. He urged them to close their ranks and devote themselves entirely to establishing peace in Afghanistan. He thanked the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, for his efforts to bring together all Afghan mojahedin leaders and to achieve a resolution of the dispute according to the aspiration of the Afghan people.

Meanwhile, members of the Afghan Mojahedin Council led by its president, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, left for Kabul via Towrkham this morning. Prof. Mojaddedi and his entourage was accorded a very warm send-off at the Towrkham border before they entered into Afghanistan. A guard of honor was presented to them. Prof. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi inspected the guard of honor and took salute. A large number of people who had gathered at Towrkham border to welcome the Afghan Mojahedin Council chanted slogans of Allah-o-Akbar [God is great] as they entered Afghanistan.

Addressing the gathering on Afghan territory, Prof. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi thanked the people and government of Pakistan for providing all facilities to the mojahedin during their stay in Pakistan. In a voice choked with emotions, Prof. Mojaddedi said Pakistanis

kept us close to their hearts. He expressed his gratitude to the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, and the people for their all-out support in freeing Afghanistan from foreign occupation. He said in fact Pakistan where I was staying till now is my second home. Now I am returning to my motherland. He called upon mojahedin to shun all their rivalries and unite together for reconstruction of a free and Islamic Afghanistan. Prof. Mojaddedi expressed confidence that Pakistan would provide all help and assistance for the reconstruction which has been ravaged by 13 years of deadly fighting. He appealed to the international community to help the Afghans in this gigantic task.

Prof. Mojaddedi and his entourage then set off on their journey of victory to Kabul, the capital of war-torn Afghanistan. The motorcade included a large number of vehicles carrying Afghan mojahedin and refugees. People had gathered on both sides of the road inside Afghanistan to greet their mojahedin who struggled relentlessly to free their countrymen from the clutches of foreign yoke. They raised slogans of Allah-o-Akbar as the motorcade of the mojahedin passed through.

The mojahedin fought for 13 years during which around 1.5 million fell martyrs, 1 million were crippled and 5 million rendered homeless. Among them, 3 million moved into Pakistan where they were provided shelter, food, and other necessities of life in accordance with the principles of Islamic brotherhood.

Spokesman Briefs Media on Cease-Fire

BK2704164092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Excerpts] A complete cease-fire came into effect in Kabul this afternoon following an agreement between all Afghan mojahedin tanzimat [organizations] and groups to bring all hostilities to an immediate end. The agreement followed telephonic discussions held by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, with mojahedin commanders—Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar—which were followed by talks with leaders of Afghan mojahedin, including Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, in Peshawar. [passage omitted]

A Foreign Office spokesman, briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, said the cease-fire was within the framework of Friday's Peshawar agreement and it followed the talks that have been going on for broadening the base of the mojahedin council to include those mojahedin tanzimat and groups who had not already given their agreement to the mojahedin council. This was in consonance with Pakistan's policy concerning the situation in Afghanistan. He said representatives of all Afghan tanzimat and groups, including those of Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar and Hezb-e Wahdat, were present during the discussions.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said there is no authority opposed to or no dispute about assumption of power by the council. He said the legitimacy of the Afghan mojahedin council for assuming power is based on the fact that its formation enjoys the unanimous agreement of all tanzimat and groups without exception.

Hekmatyar Faction Agrees to Conditions

BK2704150492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1451 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 27 (AFP)—The Hezb-e Eslami of Golboddin Hekmatyar said Monday that it had agreed to sign the accord for the formation of an interim government in Kabul with certain "conditions."

In a statement released by the Hezb-sponsored AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA), the party said Qotboddin Helal, chief of the faction's political wing, had signed the agreement at a meeting attended by other party leaders and Pakistani and Saudi officials.

The party demanded that a ceasefire follow the withdrawal of militia troops brought from other places into Kabul, changes in the structure of armed forces and the purge of all communist elements.

Hezb-e Eslami has also accepted the creation of a 51-member council with moderate Sebghatollah Mojaddedi as president, demanding that a leadership council and the president should work simultaneously, the statement said,

The party believes that the council was "unnecessary," the statement said, adding that "however on the request of Muslim brothers, we agreed accept the council." [sentence as received]

Party sources here said that negotiations were going on and other issues would be tackled "shortly" in Kabul.

Hezb-e Eslami Lists Conditions

NC2704193792 Paris AFP in English 1902 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 27 (AFP)—Radical resistance leader Golboddin Hekmatyar's party set tough conditions Monday for a ceasefire in Kabul, while agreeing to a transfer of power to a common mojahedin government.

A Hezb-e-Eslami communique laying down Hekmatyar's conditions came hours after Pakistan announced that a ceasefire agreement had been reached by all groups, including Hekmatyar and his rival, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. But intense fighting continued in Kabul late Monday.

Citing an agreement signed here Monday, the communique released by the Hezb-sponsored Afghan News Agency (ANA) said a ceasefire would take effect after the conditions were met. A "highly authoritative delegation comprising sincere mojahedin" will be formed for the "enforcement of the ceasefire," the communique said.

The conditions it listed were:

—That militia forces brought into Kabul be expelled and the Afghan Army brought under control of the mojahedin government, with necessary changes made in its structure.

—That communist officers be purged from the army, to be replaced by consensual and joint mojahedin command.

—That the security of Kabul and all state installations and institutions be under the control of the joint consensual mojahedin contingents.

The communique said the Hezb-e-Eslami "believes that the council of transfer of power is unnecessary." But it added that on the request of "our Muslim brothers, and keeping our national interest, we have agreed to it, provided the leadership council and the government commences work along with it simultaneously, and this is what has been agreed upon today." Other issues previously agreed will now be tackled by the leadership council in Kabul, the communique said.

It said Qotboddin Helal, chief of the political Hezb in Pakistan, met with Borhanoddin Rabbani of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami, Rasul Sayyaf of Ettehad, Yunes Khales (dissident Hezb) and leaders of "some Islamic movements," after which the decisions were taken.

Hekmatyar Appoints Interim Prime Minister

BK2804102792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1018 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 28 (AFP)—Radical Afghan leader Golboddin Hekmatyar has appointed commander Ostad Farid as the interim prime minister of Afghanistan, his top aide Qotboddin Helal said here Tuesday.

Farid, 41, a Tajik from Parwan province, has been asked to take his post immediately, Helal told a news conference here.

Noting that the prime ministership was assigned to Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami under the six-party accord signed here Friday and endorsed by Hezb on Monday, Helal said Hekmatyar went ahead with the appointment since the rival Jam'yiat-e Eslami had already named its commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud as defence minister.

He said the role of the 51-member interim council headed by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi was to arrange a transfer of power and not to form the new Afghan government.

He said however that Hezb would have reservations if Mas'ud remained aligned with militia commanders who had defected from the former Kabul government, such as Generals 'Abdol Rashid Dostam and 'Abdol Momen.

He blamed Tajik and Uzbek militia generals for the continuing war in Afghanistan despite Monday's all-party accord for ceasefire reached in Peshawar.

Helal, the chief of the Hezb political department, demanded the military withdrawal from Kabul of Tajik and Uzbek militia.

He also called for the removal of former Kabul government officials 'Abdol Wakil, Farid Mazdad, and Nabi 'Azimi, who he said "are responsible for the present situation in Afghanistan."

Helal charged that only three hours after the ceasefire agreement, Dostam's brother 'Abdol Majid and Mas'ud's brother Wali told reporters in Kabul that the truce was not acceptable to them.

Helal said Hezb forces would observe the truce if their rivals did, but warned that they would retaliate if provoked.

Faction Leaders Reportedly Agree

BK2704102492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, who arrived in Peshawar this morning [28 April], held talks with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Golboddin Hekmatyar by telephone. Saudi Arabian Prince Turki al-Faysal, who accompanied the prime minister from Islamabad, joined the talks held through a special radio link. As a result of these talks, all Afghan groups have agreed to end all kinds of fighting immediately. After these talks, further discussions were held with Afghan mojahedin leaders, including Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, in Peshawar. A complete cease-fire will come into force immediately. The prime minister congratulated the mojahedin leaders and commanders for demonstrating their wisdom and foresight at this critical juncture of their struggle. The fruits of victory need to be consolidated in the interest of the Afghan people, the prime minister observed.

Saudi Prince Hailes Cease-Fire

LD2804085292 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The grouping of Afghan mojahedin parties agreed yesterday to quickly come to a cease-fire in Afghanistan. Government television in Pakistan said that the agreement was a result of talks which Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and His Royal Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal had with the leaders of the Afghan mojahedin in Peshawar.

According to a television report, Prince Turki al-Faysal conveyed greetings to the Afghan mojahedin from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, [words indistinct] and urged them to unify their ranks and to devote themselves totally to the establishment of peace in Afghanistan.

Opposition to Government Formulas Still Reported

5 Leaders Oppose Transitional Government

LD2704173992 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Leaders of five jihad groups, Hojjat ol-Eslam Javed, deputy head of Harakat-e Eslami; Mohammad Karim Khalili, spokesman of Wahdat-e Eslami; Mohammad Amin Waqad, head of the Mission for Islam Alliance; Mowlawi Nasrollah Mansur, head of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami; and Mowlawi Rafi'ollah Mo'azen, head of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [a separate faction of the same name]; have expressed their criticism of the transitional government in the following resolution:

For one and half months talks were carried on among jihad formations. Leaders of jihad formations were close to an agreement and there was a hope that they would succeed in forming a transitional government in principle and under a joint stance very soon, and that this government would be sent to Kabul. With regret, however, we should say that as a result of a series of secret meetings, six formations announced a one-sided and impractical resolution for the formation of the transitional government. In our opinion, by this unfair and monopolistic decision these leaders wrecked the joint efforts for the formation of an Islamic government of consensus by all jihad formations, and by their unseemly and unprincipled resolutions once again damaged the unity of jihad forces and the Muslim Afghan nation, creating obstacles for the establishment of a pure Islamic government. Therefore we have no obligation to the resolution, and we will not be blamed for incidents that arise as a result of this resolution.

National Islamic Front Head Opposes Hekmatyar

BK2804094492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0945 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 28 (AFP)—A moderate mojahedin faction leader said Tuesday he would not join any government headed by Golboddin Hekmatyar, head of the radical fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction. "The culprits perpetrating the fighting and bloodshed in Kabul must be cut to size," Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani told a press conference here.

Gilani, head of the pro-Western National Islamic Front, said "extremist" factions had been given too much importance in the interim government formed in Peshawar last Friday.

Under the six-party formula endorsed by Hekmatyar, the prime minister can be nominated from his faction, which was locked in an intense battle for Kabul against moderate Jam'yiat-e Eslami forces until an imperfect ceasefire came into effect Monday.

"We should not reward people who want things to be done by force," Gilani said.

He said he had originally accepted the formula in the "larger interest of the nation to restore peace and stability in Afghanistan," although it was not an "ideal solution."

An interim council has already named Jam'yiat commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud the new defence minister, while his Jam'yiat leader Borhanoddin Rabbani is to assume the presidency.

"The formula must be changed and Hekmatyar's party should not be given the key post of the prime ministership," Gilani said.

He demanded convening of a traditional Afghan assembly known as a "loya jerga," comprising religious leaders, tribal heads, technocrats and other members of the Afghan elite to form a government.

Such people represent a majority of the Afghan population, he said.

Gilani said he believed direct elections could not take place "at this juncture."

Asked whether he considered it proper that the Jam'yiat has been assured the office of president and defense minister, Gilani skirted the issue, saying that in Peshawar last week "they have distributed key portfolios among themselves, by themselves."

Under the agreement, Gilani's faction was given the Foreign Ministry. He said he had not yet named his minister, adding, "I will not do it until amendments are made."

New Officials' Statements, Leaders Interviewed

Armed Forces Urged To Return To Duty

LD2704193692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Announcement by Kabul City Security Commission on 27 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Kabul City Security Commission, to achieve complete coordination of the Armed Forces of our beloved country, Afghanistan, in establishing general order and discipline in the Armed Forces and in putting an immediate end to the antinational and anti-Islamic activities of saboteurs and disruptors of public order, announces the following:

1. All personnel of the Armed Forces—including generals, officers, NCOs, and troops—who have not thus far returned to their units and companies should consider their return to duties as their national Islamic duty and must return immediately to their previous duties.

2. All jehadi commanders are instructed to act in a spirit of complete unison with personnel of the Armed Forces in all garrisons and localities where they are present to

assist in carrying out and implementing the orders of the city's Security Commission in line with accepted military norms. The present identity cards of personnel of the Armed Forces are valid until the distribution of new cards.

3. Every sincere example of cooperation of the faithful and patriotic personnel of the Armed Forces in crushing saboteurs and in the return of peace and stability in the country will be viewed with appreciation.

4. Kabul city's Security Commission requests all state personnel to return to their assigned duties, provide social services to their citizens more than ever before, and continue their duties. We are grateful for the cooperation of esteemed Kabul citizens and all state personnel who have cooperated, and are cooperating, in the process of consolidating peace and stability. Success comes from God.

Wahdat-e Eslami Backs Security Commission

LD2704184392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1630 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Message to the people by Rajab 'Ali Yoresh, Wahdat-e Eslami commander in Kabul—read by announcer]

[Text] By time, verily man is in loss, except such as have faith and for righteous deeds, and in the mutual teaching of truth, patience, and constancy. [First sentence in Arabic]

[Words indistinct] and Muslim residents of Kabul City, employees of the government, businessmen, artisans, and [words indistinct] youths, I congratulate you, who have suffered for 14 years for the success of Islamic jehad and now have attained this higher wish, on your success. Now that jehad forces are in place in all provinces as a result of the cooperation of the faithful personnel of the armed forces and of dear compatriots, saboteur forces have arrived at some points of the city of Kabul from their satanic nests, and very important duties rest on our shoulders. The first duty of jehad forces is not to allow any disruption and to defend the honor and property of Kabul City residents in line with Koranic orders.

We asked all mojahedin who have put serving the creatures of God higher than [words indistinct] to work for the establishment of understanding with all jehad forces, and to double their efforts for the restoration of normal life of the Kabul city residents and the removal of all their worries. Wahdat-e Eslami, a section of the jehad and peaceseeking forces, asks all its brothers to conduct all their activities under the leadership of Kabul City's Security Commission, which is headed by esteemed brother Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the minister of defense of Afghanistan. [Words indistinct] Almighty God be with you.

Security Commission Members Interviewed

LD2704201892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1700 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Interview with Dr. Najibollah Mojadeddi and Dr. 'Abdorrahman, members of Kabul city Security Commission, by unidentified correspondent, in Kabul on 27 April—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Dear television viewers and radio listeners: Our country is experiencing its [word indistinct] during the last year, a difficult and historical period. The dwellers of the city of Kabul are living through the recent events and [words indistinct]. So as to [word indistinct] of the [word indistinct] of the dwellers of the city, we invited Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Mojaddedi and Esteemed 'Abdorrahman, members of the Security Commission of the city of Kabul, to speak for the television and radio on the situation. We invite Dr. Mojaddedi to speak on the history of the current events: that is, after 14 years of jehad by the muslims of Afghanistan, an Islamic state was being established peacefully. The situation, however, immediately changed and there were persons who sought to (?destroy) this peaceful process of the transfer of power to the Muslim brothers. Can you please enlighten us as to why the situation took this turn?

[Najibollah Mojaddedi] In the name of Almighty God! I would like to say that you rightly stated that all the international preparations, political and mutual understanding between the groups involved in the Afghan issue (?made it) [word indistinct] for the transfer of power from the government of Kabul to the mojahedin government. The role of the United Nations here is clear and they also approved this process of transfer, and the readiness of the Kabul Government was also fully clear, namely that they were ready to transfer the Kabul Government to the mojahedin government. The mojahedin also expressed their readiness to take this power from the Kabul Government and establish the mojahedin government in Kabul, in Afghanistan. Unfortunately [word indistinct] as desired by the majority of groups involved this did not take place and because of this, differences that existed even previously in various forms between the mojahedin groups and the government of the time and our readiness was taken with this [word indistinct].

The latest decision taken by the leaders of the mojahedin which took place in [word indistinct] they requested that a government be formed by the mojahedin and a leader be chosen as president of the state, to accept Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, and also to chose him as head of the Council [word indistinct] for a period of two months with a membership of about 50 persons who are to [words indistinct]. Instructions were given for the surrender of power. A few small problems, however, did prevail. Principally speaking, however, nearly all except for one of the political organizations were, on the whole, in agreement. For example, the organization of Islamic

Unity [word indistinct] were principally in agreement and they were only in disagreement on percentage representation in this government and this was placed for examination and this was understandable. Efforts were made [words indistinct] to bring this issue to full understanding.

Unfortunately, however, a few of the jehadi groups, which [word indistinct] fully rejected by most of the mojahedin and with these groups had [word indistinct] in this government and were not prepared to transfer power through peace, accord, and much calm, and with the consideration of the current situation in Afghanistan and the political situation of Afghanistan, and (?they) took to a series of disorders, indifference and [word indistinct]. We are now witnessing the results of this, and we also place the responsiblity on those persons who, for example, should have opened the knot by the hand but are opening it with teeth. Our (?position), however, from the point of view of the military and political situation, has always been that we should be able to do something that will [word indistinct] the [word indistinct] of Afghanistan, national unity of Afghanistan, and the territorial integrity of Afghanistan, and we should never allow any further [words indistinct] of our suffering country. We will [words indistinct] that if we come under agression, the [word indistinct] the muslim people of Afghanistan and the residents of the city of Kabul, the unfortunate men, women, and even the elderly [words indistinct].

If we find ourself in such a situation, we consider it our right to adopt a defensive position. Only a few of our brothers have started with self-interested actions and it is this [word indistinct] in cooperation with a part of the Khalqis [faction of former ruling party] together with formations of [words indistinct] who wanted [word indistinct]. They cooperated and they armed their men and gave them [word indistinct] to the city of Kabul, armed their personnel, and subjected tens of state institutions to attack and put military establishments under attack. They interfered in the places where our people were residing in the city of Kabul. They made our city dwellers flee their homes and engaged in looting their property.

Our stance on the basis of the decree of the Jehadi Council and the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan was that the [words indistinct] to defend the people, our sisters, brothers, and fellow residents of the city of Kabul. It arises from this that we undertook a series of principled operations—with patience and taking into account the political and military situation—which we [words indistinct]; and we consider this [word indistinct] duty of an Islamic regime which will defend the fellow residents of Kabul city. Currently, I think that the situation is coming under control from day to day and we are hopeful that this situation will change very soon.

On the question as to how much control we have, esteemed Dr Abdorahman is better informed than I, and God willing he will give you information on the issue. I can, however, say that we are ready to reach an understanding with those brothers who have brought about this state of affairs and sit together with them and convince our brothers until they are ready [word indistinct] what was our duty (?until now).

[Correspondent, addressing Dr. Abdorrahman] [Words indistinct] you being a member of the Security Commission for Kabul city and as Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Mojaddedi stated, you have more accurate information than anyone else on the situation of the city. I ask you to provide us with information on the situation in the city and answer the questions that are in the minds of our compatriots.

[Abdorrahman] In the name of God! The situation of the city of Kabul as compared to other days, irrespective of the fact that yesterday and the day before yesterday there was [words indistinct]; the situation has come under control quickly and I can state with confidence to the fellow residents of Kabul city that the last nests of [word indistinct] will be (?shaken) in the shortest time and the necessary order, tranquility, and security, which is the wish of the [word indistinct], will be reestablished without worry.

Irrespective of the fact that during the last three days the [words indistinct] carried out operations one after another and wanted to make the situation [word indistinct] tense in the various corners of Kabul city and to destroy the security and the property of the people everywhere. The Kabul Security Commission, however, with a [words indistinct] stood up against the (?insurgents) and undertook a defensive operation, and this defensive operation made it possible today to bring the situation under control. We assure you that very soon the [word indistinct] will be [word indistinct], and I have a message for the fellow city residents of Kabul: that they should be in (?solidarity) with all the armed jehadi forces and should show [words indistinct] to the insurgents and [word indistinct]. With full confidence in the future [words indistinct] the efforts that are required [words indistinct] and all the armed forces should act and [words indistinct].

Jam'iyat-e Eslami Leaders Interviewed

LD2704123792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1030 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Interview with members of the Supervisory Council of Jam'iyat-e Eslami Afghanistan by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Frid] My name is Mawlana Frid and I am a member of the Supervisory Council of Jam'iyat-e Eslami Afghanistan. The duties of the Supervisory Council of Jam'iyat-e Eslami and the commission of the Jehad Council of the Islamic Government of Afghanistan is to ensure security in the city of Kabul for its residents. The aim of the units stationed in Kabul is to ensure security, defend the lives, honor, and property of the people, and

to dislodge some saboteurs who want to disrupt security in the city of Kabul and to monopolize power for themselves. This is the purpose of our coming here.

We were engaged in an obliterating war for about 14 years. As long as Russians were in Afghanistan, it was the duty of every person of Afghanistan, as a sacred jehad, to fight this jehad [words indistinct]. Our purpose is to guarantee security in the beautiful capital of Afghanistan and in the provinces. We should carry out our duty, as our ancestors did, to dislodge any kind of aggression.

[Correspondent] Thank you for your remarks. [five-minute musical interlude]

[Panah] My name is Mohammad Panah. The purpose of our coming here is to restore security and to be able to serve these people to prevent any kind of repression, aggression, and looting. With the help of God we will defend.

[Correspondent] Thank you for your remarks, esteemed Commander. [seven-minute musical interlude] Sir, please introduce yourself to the television audience and Radio Afghanistan's listeners.

[Fakhrodin] Thank you. My name is Fakhrodin, member of the Supervisory Council of Jam'iyat-e Eslami Afghanistan. We are now in a unit in the Kabul garrison. We approve the statement [not further identified] and want to tell Kabul residents that their security is guaranteed 100 percent. They do not have to worry and they can carry out their daily tasks.

We support peace, a total peace. We do not support war. We are fighting for the tranquility of the people and the freedom of our country, Afghanistan, and will continue to do so. We are telling the people of Kabul the good news that security is ensured. The four or five people who are disrupting peace here are loafers; they should not worry about them but rather continue their lives. Security is being maintained.

We assume our duties under the leadership of the Supervisory Council of Jam'iyat-e Eslami Afghanistan. We will carry out any duty assigned to us by the Supervisory Council center. What is important now is that the security of Kabul city be maintained. As our forefathers bravely defended our country and faithfully fulfilled their duties, we their sons also carry out our duties as required by our conscience and faith. We move ahead under our united Islamic leadership and the flag of Islam is hoisted in Afghanistan.

[Delagha] My name is Delagha. We have been tasked with ensuring security in Kabul city for the tranquility of Kabul residents. Our people have been hoping for 13 years to be comfortable and that their dignity, property, and honor be defended in an Islamic fashion. Kabul residents should continue their lives without any worry.

Fighting is no good. All Afghan people should give help to one another and embark on the reconstruction of their country. As our forefathers defended their country and defeated the English in Afghanistan, we also should keep our country free and defend the prestige and territorial integrity of the country. Instead of fighting, our country will be rebuilt and reconstructed so that our country will be rid of this miserable situation.

[Correspondent] Thank you for your remarks, Commander. We wish you further successes. [five-minute musical interlude] Please introduce yourself to the television audience and listeners of Radio Afghanistan.

[Unidentified commander] I command one of the Supervisory Council's battalions. The fighting should stop. The oppressed people of Afghanistan should be rid of the skirmishes, problems, and bloodshed. We are stationed here for the security of Kabul city. We assure the people of Kabul that we are ready to serve the people of Kabul city. God willing, we want to save our people from fighting and bloodshed. [four-minute musical interlude]

[Wakil] I am Commander 'Abdol Wakil. We have come to ensure the security and peace of our brothers in Kabul. Our brothers in Kabul city should not worry. With the help of God, there are many brothers and they can take any security measures, so they should not worry about security for their lives and their property. Those who want to fight will perish. With the help of God, there are brothers here to vanquish those who want to disrupt the security of Kabul city. With the help of God, there is complete security all around and they are not to worry.

Mojahedin Officials on Situation

LD2704192192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Interviews with mojahedin representatives and officials in Kabul on 27 April by unidentified radio correspondent, in Dari unless otherwise specified]

[Text] [First Speaker] My name is [words indistinct] director of the [word indistinct] of Kabul Province.

[Correspondent] Please tell us to which party do you belong?

[First Speaker] I am a member of the Front for the National Salvation of Afghanistan.

[Correspondent] What is your opinion on the recent events in our country and the establishment of an Islamic State in Afghanistan?

[First Speaker] I am of the opinion that the recent events are in the interest of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, and as a Muslim I approve this, and God willing this will be in the interest of the people.

[Correspondent] A number of [words indistinct] war and [word indistinct] in the city of Kabul and direct the war in Kabul city. What is your opinion as a Muslim who directly supports [words indistinct] in relation to them?

[First Speaker] I am of the opinion that we, all the people of Afghanistan, should be advised that this is not the

time for war. It is the time for the construction of Afghanistan, and we should try to reconstruct Afghanistan and not [word indistinct] in war, killing, and bloodshed.

[Correspondent] Thank you!

[Second speaker, Ahmad, in Pashto] My name is [word indistinct] Ahmad and I am the director of the Qarabakh district.

[Correspondent] To which party do you belong?

[Ahmad, now in Dari] I belong to the Front for National Salvation of Afghanistan.

[Correspondent] Can you comment on the recent events in Afghanistan?

[Ahmad, in Pashto] I am very happy and God willing there will be peace in Kabul.

[Third Speaker, Abu-Bakr] My name is Abu-Bakr from the [word indistinct] of central Kabul. I am a member of the Front for the National Salvation of Afghanistan.

[Correspondent] Can you please give your opinion on the recent events and the establishment of an Islamic State of Afghanistan?

[Abu-Bakr] The Muslim people of Afghanistan, women, men, and children have over a period of 15 years [as heard] fought against all the problems [words indistinct] and eventually reached their religious aspiration which is the establishment of an Islamic State in Afghanistan. Our government was formed in Pakistan and at the head of the government with an absolute majority is his holiness [reference to Professor Mojaddedi, president of the 51-member council] who was elected president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and fully approved by all the refugees and the mojahedin people of Afghanistan.

[Correspondent] You are [words indistinct] of the [security] commission in Kabul in line with the request of [words indistinct] want to impose war on the people and worsen the situation in Kabul? As one of our mojahed and Muslim brothers what is your opinion on such (?people)?

[Abu-Bakr] I am of the opinion that all the people of Afghanistan were [word indistinct] and the time for war and jehad has come to an end, and the war should be stopped. Afghanistan needs peace and all the brothers should put down their weapons and surrender to the Islamic State of Afghanistan and accept this state.

[Correspondent] If someone wants to impose the war on you what will be your response to this ?

[Abu-Bakr] Any order issued by the Islamic State of Afghanistan will be observed by us.

[Correspondent]) Thank you!

[Fourth Speaker] [Words indistinct] head of the jehadi forces of Kabul city and member of the Islamic Unity Party.

[Correspondent] I congratulate you and all mojahed brothers on the victory of the Islamic State and consequently would like to ask you as a mojahed brother your opinion on the recent events.

[Fourth Speaker] It is well known to you that the people of Afghanistan and the jehadi forces have fought a holy war for 14 years to establish an Islamic State in Afghanistan and have made sacrifices. [words indistinct] The Islamic Unity Party will defend all the interests and rights of our people and the implementation of all the [word indistinct] of Islam. We give assurances and promises to all the people that the jehadi forces, the Islamic Unity Party, and all the Islamic and jehadi forces are defending and will defend the city of Kabul for [word indistinct].

[Correspondent] We know that for the maintenance of security in the city of Kabul, the Security Commission of the city of Kabul is continuing its work. A few persons, however, [words indistinct] want to worsen the situation in the city of Kabul and are avoiding the instructions of the Security Commission of the city of Kabul. As a mojahed brother who issues orders as [word indistinct] of the Security Commission of the city of Kabul, what message have you for [word indistinct] and please give your opinion on your [word indistinct]?

[Fourth Speaker] We say to and request from all our brother and jehadi forces that [words indistinct] not to play with the life of the people. [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] Thank you!

Reportage on Status of Kabul City

Shops Open; City Calm

LD2704112192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1030 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The people of Kabul are noticing the peace and calm, and are conducting their daily business, Kabul resident Gholam Sakhi has told BAHKTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA]. BIA correspondents in various sections of the city have reported that security and peace is being maintained in various parts of Kabul. People are moving from one part of the city to another with confidence. The shops in the city are generally open and people are doing their shopping. Prices for basic goods such as flour have fallen, an indication of the peace and security in Kabul. Kabul residents are giving their total cooperation in maintaining law and order, and security.

Battle Defy Cease-Fire

BK2704120092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Kabul, April 27 (AFP)—The battle for Kabul still raged between rival groups Monday despite the announcement of a ceasefire by the Pakistan Government, as a 51-member council began winding its way toward the Afghan capital from northwestern Pakistan to assume power in the wartorn country.

After a lull for lunch, combat resumed between the radical Hezb-e Eslami faction of Golboddin Hekmatyar and the Jam'iyat-e Eslami of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, with no indication that it would stop.

At the same time the Pakistan Government was saying in Islamabad that a complete ceasefire had gone into effect between the two sides, who are divided along broadly ethnic lines and each supported by troops of the former government. [passage omitted]

Battle for Kabul Intensifies

BK2704133892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1329 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By Anil Penna]

[Excerpt] Kabul, April 27 (AFP)—Fighting continued uninterrupted between rival guerrilla groups vying for control of the Afghan capital Monday, heedless of an announcement by Pakistan that a ceasefire had been reached.

Sporadic bursts of gunfire and artillery thundered in the city of 1.5 million people, as fighters of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's Jam'iyat-e Eslami battled to keep hard-won control of Kabul.

Witnesses reported that at least 40 tanks belonging to the Hezb-e Eslami faction of Mas'ud's rival, Golboddin Hekmatyar, rumbled down Lowgar road to join the fight for Kabul, which began Sunday.

A ceasefire announcement by the Pakistan Government had no apparent effect on the fighting.

In the afternoon, Uzbek militiamen allied with Mas'ud said through interpreters that they had heard "no such thing," and continued to hold a group of some 100 Hezb troops they had captured prisoner.

A block down the street at the entrance to the airport road, fellow Uzbekis fired their tank cannon at a nearby hill. [passage omitted]

Hekmatyar Forces Reportedly Use Jet Fighters

BK2704163692 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1620 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Here is the latest on Afghanistan: AIR's [All India Radio's] Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, came on the line a short while ago and said that in the fighting, missiles and rockets are now being used freely. Other reports say that Mr. Hekmatyar's troops used jet fighters to bomb the airport of Baghram, Kabul, and Mazar-e Sharif which are in control of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud forces.

Planes Bomb Three Airports

BK2704164692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1638 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Islamabad, April 27 (AFP)—The Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin faction of radical leader Golboddin Hekmatyar acknowledged Tuesday that its planes had bombed three airports in Afghanistan a day earlier.

In a statement received here, the Hezb said "militia forces were using these three airports" to bomb its positions.

It acknowledged bombing Monday afternoon the air base at Bagram and airports at Khwaja Rawash, near the capital, and at Mazar-e Sharif, in the north.

Hekmatyar's faction avoided naming the forces of rival guerrilla commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, mentioning only "militia."

"The three airports have been made inoperative," the statement said. Independent confirmation was not immediately available.

The Hezb was not known to have planes.

Hezb-e Eslami Claims Capture of Baghlan Province

LD2704152592 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 1430 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Late yesterday, according to reports from the Afghan News Agency in Rawalpandi, all of Baghlan Province was taken by the mojahedin from the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan. The report states that the heroic mojahedin of the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan with [words indistinct] all the regions in the province have been surrendered by the enemy and (?small pockets) of resistance from the groups of General Dostam in the Pol-e Khomri province, where the center of [word indistinct] is positioned, are continuing.